

“TILL HE COMES...”

ACTS 1:1-11

1. Continue in His Word (v. 2 - He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to His apostles)

* Jesus taught us to -

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ” **NKJV**

John 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **15:7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **NKJV**

Matthew 28:20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. **NKJV**

* Early church devoted itself to -

Acts 2:41-42 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **6:4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” **20:32** “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **NKJV**

Ephesians 2:19-20 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, **NKJV**

* Each believer is to be nourished by -

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, **NKJV**

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. **NKJV**

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. **NKJV**

2. Learn the Proofs of our Faith (v. 3 - presented Himself alive after His suffering by many convincing proofs)

* Our Christian faith is reasonable, reliable, and real -

Matthew 28:6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. **NKJV**

John 20:6-8 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. **27-28** 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” **NKJV**

* Based upon eyewitness testimony (as in a court of law) -

1 Corinthians 15:4-8 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. **NKJV**

* Based upon archaeology, manuscript evidence, science, record of history -

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; **NKJV**

3. Walk in the Spirit (v. 4-5 - *wait for the promise of the Father...baptized with the Holy Spirit*)

* Since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes at our new birth -

John 3:5-8 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." **NKJV**

Romans 8:9-11 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. **NKJV**

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **NKJV**

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who* is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **NKJV**

* We are to daily surrender and yield, that we might walk in the Spirit and be filled with the Spirit -

Galatians 5:16-17 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **5:25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. **NKJV**

Ephesians 5:17-18 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, **NKJV**

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **4:10-11** 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **NKJV**

4. Trust God's Timing and Master Plan (v. 6-7, *It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority*)

* Prophecy is fascinating and a proof of our faith, but it can take us off mission and lead to distraction if we're not careful -

Mark 13:21-23 21 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or, 'Look, *He is* there!' do not believe it. 22 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. **NKJV**

* Prophecy should not trouble or upset us, but reassure us -

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **NKJV**

John 14:25-29 25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming *back* to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. 29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. **NKJV**

5. Be His witness (v. 8, *But you shall receive power...and you shall be witnesses to Me*)

* Not only something we do, it's from who we are (character, conduct, conversation), our works and our words

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **NKJV**

Titus 3:14 And let our *people* also learn to maintain good works, to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. **NKJV**

Colossians 4:5-6 5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who* are outside, redeeming the time. 6 *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. **NKJV**

* We need to be intentional - *in Jerusalem...and to the ends of the earth* - and natural -

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **NKJV**

6. Look for His return (v. 9-11, *This same Jesus...will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven*)

* Live each day in light of His soon coming - it could be today!

Mark 13:35-37 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world." 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. **NKJV**

John 14:1-3 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. **NKJV**

* Steward your gifts faithfully, share your faith, pursue holiness, "occupy till I come" -

Luke 19:13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' **NKJV**

2 Peter 3:11-13 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of* persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **NKJV**