

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 1:1-26

- The book of Acts was written by “**Luke the physician**” the same man who also wrote the “**gospel of Luke**” and at the close of his gospel he had left the believers at the temple praising God. Now he is going to pick up the story and explain what happened next, imagine how confusing it would be if after reading the book of John scripture jumped straight to Romans, you’d wonder how did the church get to Rome and Europe, and the answer is found in the book of Acts. The gospels record what Jesus “**began both to do and teach in the human body**” but the book of acts tells us “**what Jesus continued to do and teach through His spiritual body**” > “the church”.

V1-26

- **V1-5 “Theophilus”** is a mystery to both scholars and historians, some think he once owned Luke and freed him once Luke became a believer, others think he was a Roman official whom Luke led to Christ and wanted more instruction on how to be a Christian. Perhaps we won’t know this side of heaven, what we can tell is Luke made sure that he and the readers of this book would have a detailed description of the history of the church and the commands of the Lord.
- After the resurrection Jesus spent **40** more days on earth ministering and preparing His disciples for the work, He had called them to do. In **Lk 24:45-48** Jesus told them that He had opened their minds to understand both the OT message about Him and His instructions for the church, but before they could go and launch out into their new ministry, He wanted them to be endued with Power from on High, which of course was the promise of them being filling with the Holy Spirit.
- So the last command Jesus gave them in person was to wait, which of course can often be the most difficult of instructions to follow, because waiting consists of us trusting that what were being patient for will be better than what we could produce in and of ourselves, that’s why Jesus called it “**a promise from the Father**” > **Lk 24:49**- I must trust that I’ll receive it and it will be worth it. **V6-8** this is the last time that they’ll see Jesus in His physical body until they went to heaven to be with Him forever, so in knowing that Jesus has instituted the New Covenant, and that He will restore the Kingdom of Israel here on earth, they ask is it now time?
- In other words, after we wait and receive this promise then will you come back and establish Your Kingdom then? It’s not for you to know says Jesus, all of us need to underline this phrase in our bible, as we think we need to know everything in order to follow the Lord, not even the disciples who spent three years with Him knew everything, and yet they will sacrifice their lives to Him. V8 helps us know our relationship to the Holy Spirit > “Power” Dunamis, where we get the English word “dynamite” from, this means we’re to receive explosive power from God.

- But that's after you've saved not before, **1st Para-** the Holy Spirit comes alongside of us to witness, and open up truth to us, **2nd EN-** when we ask and accept the Lord and He sends the Holy Spirit to come and live inside of us, and were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, **3rd the Spirit is upon them,** this is what powers us to do the work of the Lord, then He's glorified, and we are satisfied. In this first chapter we see the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives as "**He first comes alongside being with them**", after they accept and have a relationship then "**He's in them**", and finally when it's time to obey and serve the Lord He will come "**upon them**" for a witness to the world.
- You see this in > **Jn 14:17-** He convicts us of sin and our need to be born again, **Jn 20:22-** He comes in us the moment we receive Jesus as our Savior, **Acts 1:8-** He comes upon us when He empowers us for His service. **V9-11 Lk 24:50** tells us this happened while Jesus was blessing them, He simply could have vanished, but He wanted them to see Him go up into the cloud of glory representative of God's presence, and so that they don't stand there for several days to see if He is going to come back to that spot a couple of Angels asked them "**why do you stand gazing up into heaven, this same Jesus is going to return in the same manner that he left**"
- In other words, didn't He leave you with some instructions to go back to Jerusalem to wait and not stand here, this is beautiful, for it reminds us that as wonderful as it will be when Christ returns until He does we have work to do, commands to follow, lessons to learn and model to others. **V12-20** Jesus told them to return to Jerusalem and wait for the Promise not to anoint another Apostle, but this is what we do when we're supposed to be waiting, we think of things to do, and they think it's time to replace Judas, of course that will happen when the Lord chooses Paul later on, but the disciples take it upon themselves to do it while they wait on the Spirit.
- **V21-26** qualifications for being an Apostle are set > **1st** you had to have been with the disciples when John baptized them, **2nd** witnessed Jesus earthly ministry, **3rd** you had to have been an eyewitness of Jesus resurrection, and out of the one hundred and twenty who were in that room two fit the description Joseph called Barsabas, surnamed "**Justus**" and "**Mathias**". What's interesting is Paul doesn't quite meet these standards, but they weren't set up by God but by man, which is why when describing his appointment as an Apostle he called himself in **1Cor 15:8-10** one born out of due time, meaning when God got ready and not what man expected.