

## Adjusting to the Deep End

### Acts 1:1-8

**Acts 28:28** Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

#### #1 -> The resurrection

- Jesus spent time with his followers after being raised from the dead.
- It was really him. He was really alive.
- The transformed body of Jesus is now the beginning of God's new creation. (**Ephesians 1**; **Revelation 21**)
- Heaven and earth come together in a new way.

Without the resurrection there is no good news (gospel)!

#### #2 -> The presence and power of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit was / is present when Jesus was teaching his followers.
- They are about to discover the Spirit as a new and powerful ruling in their own lives.
- It will be similar to John's baptism (**vs. 5**).

**Matthew 3:11** “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**vs. 6**, Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?  
Jesus would become the promised king of Israel from the line of David.

This renewal will shape you, from your very depths, and it will form you as restored humanity.

This kingdom wouldn't just put a “nation” back together. This kingdom is the rule and reign of God over the whole world and God's children can start to experience this reality inside their own selves.

Jesus chose twelve apostles (**vs. 2**). Why?

So, is now the time?

They were convinced they had joined some kind of Jewish Renewal Movement.

There was a real expectation that Jesus would be king in a very real, practical, earthly sense.

**Luke 9:46-48** An argument started among them about who was the greatest of them. **47** But Jesus, knowing their inner thoughts, took a little child and had him stand next to him. **48** He told them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes him who sent me. For whoever is least among you—this one is great.”

**Luke 22:24-30** Then a dispute also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest. **25** But he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them have themselves called ‘Benefactors.’ **26** It is not to be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever is greatest among you should become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving. **27** For who is greater, the one at the table or the one serving? Isn't it the one at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. **28** You are those who stood by me in my trials. **29** I bestow on you a kingdom, just as my Father bestowed one on me, **30** so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

With someone like this as our king, he will rule Israel with justice and restore God's people.

Is now the time? Your crucifixion really made our heads spin.  
But here you are now, alive, are things back on track?

We remember you saying you must lose your life to save your life.

**Luke 9:23-24** Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it.

Do we need to lose our kingdom dreams to save them?

Confusion can be persistent and create all kinds of creative and false solutions.

Confusion leads to the following ideas:

What is important is the heavenly kingdom. Just be patience and let heaven solve all of your problems / questions. Does it really matter what happens here? I mean, what matters is eternity, right?

NO! All of the above statements are absolutely wrong!

In Luke's previous volume -> God's kingdom is coming through the work of Jesus.

**vs. 7**, It is not for you to know the details concerning the timing.

**vs. 8**, You will be my witnesses.

We are still waiting for the whole world to visibly and clearly live under God's just and healing rule.

Jesus has been appointed and enthroned!

You are the heralds to the ends of the earth.

You will have the power of the Holy Spirit to engage in this witness.

δύναμιν (dunamin)- power, where we get our English word dynamite.

The Holy Spirit is foundational to fuel (power) the mission.

Here is the road map

Jerusalem

Judea (surrounding country side)

Samaria (hated, semi-foreigners next door)

Ends of the earth

Has the journey so captivated us that we stop asking, "are we there yet?"

The message for the readers of Acts is, continue the work!

Major Themes:

Fulfillment of prophesy

Power of the Holy Spirit

Apostolic witness

Formation of Christian community

**Question:** Have you allowed confusion to lead to falsehoods or rejection?

Are you ready to press into the power of the Holy Spirit? Will you make the space in your life to be a joy filled witness? What questions do you have as we enter our study of Acts? Are you ready for your life to change?