



**VESSEL**

# POSTURING FOR USEFULNESS

We recently remembered the death and resurrection of Jesus, which represents the only path to atonement and salvation.

The ministry of Jesus on earth did not end with his resurrection.

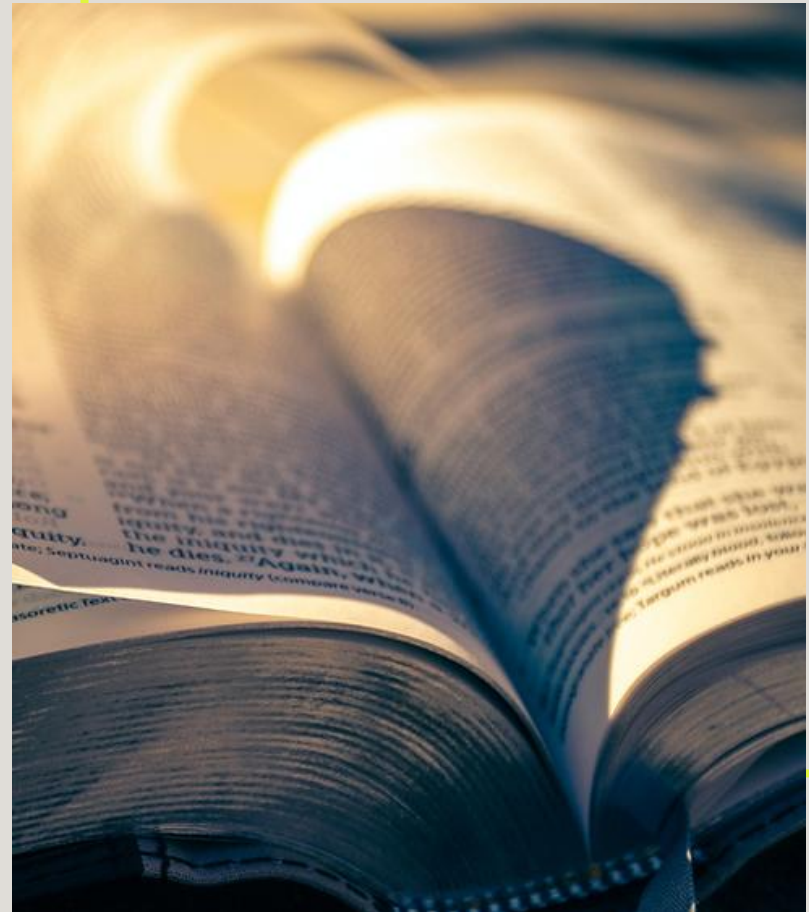


# ACTS 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- Jesus gave commands to the apostles through the Holy Spirit
- Jesus proves he is alive to each of them, not a spirit or ghost
- Jesus is with them for forty days speaking to them about the kingdom of God
- Jesus tells them to stay and wait for the promise of holy spirit baptism that will empower them to be his witnesses in all the earth
- Jesus ascends to Heaven

# ACTS 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- About 120 followers including the apostles waited and prayed until they were all baptized in the holy spirit
- Immediately following being filled/baptized in the spirit they went out into the streets
- Peter preaches the gospel message and many become followers of Jesus, marking the beginning of the church today.



# WHAT NEXT FOR US?

- If you have surrendered your life to Jesus and received his limitless forgiveness, therefore making you sons and daughters of God by faith, is there anything else?
- Once we are reborn into a new life with Christ what do we do with it?
- Jesus punched my ticket, now I am only waiting for my departure?
- Don't we all wish to be useful to God?
- The bible uses various imageries for his followers:
  - Vessels, instruments, soldiers, body parts, representatives.
  - Most can be used interchangeably

## **2 Timothy 2:20**

**Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.**



## **Acts 9:15-16**

**But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”**

## **2 Corinthians 4:7-11**

**7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.**

**Vessels only carry/contain, they are not a source of anything**

- The value or usefulness of a vessel is in its contents
- Our treasure is Christ in us



**Vessels can come in differing capacities and materials to suit specific purposes.**

- People can have different gifts and talents



## **Vessels can be contaminated by being used improperly**

- We take this new life and waste on selfish pursuits



## **Vessels can be rendered useless by being empty**

- By carrying the name Christian  
without having Christ show through us



# POSTURING FOR USEFULNESS

- 1) Make Prayer a priority
- 2) Not practicing sin
- 3) Pursuing obedience
- 4) Commitment to discipleship
- 5) Be ready, be alert
- 6) Make yourself available