

Acts 1:1-11  
CBBC  
7/6/2025

Introduction—How did we get here? Looking over 2000+ years of history, how did we get from the resurrection of Jesus Christ to Calvary Baptist Bible Church? Every single community that exists does so because of either biology, culture, or geography. Think of nations, political parties, families, whatever. Now we recognize that God is sovereign over all of those things, but communities shift as biology, culture, and geography shift. The church is different in that it was not created through biology, culture or geography. It was formed through a supernatural work of God that was made possible by Christ's death and resurrection. It created a group of people that would be eternally linked together regardless of biology or culture. They would be supernaturally changed by the Holy Spirit, and they would be given very specific commands by their God, which they would continue to do for the next 2000-plus years. The applications would shift due to culture and biology, but they would not change.

Acts tells us how we got here, and it also forces us to ask ourselves the question, "Are we where we should be?"

What is the focus of the church?

**The resurrected Christ created the church.** As a lot of us already know, Acts is the second volume of a two-volume set written by Luke. If you look over at Luke 1:1-4, we see that Luke has put all of this together in order to write about what has happened. A lot of people had been writing about Jesus and the movement that followed Him. Luke decided to join in and document all of this, and he did so for someone named Theophilus. We know that Theophilus considers himself a Christian, and that Luke is writing this so that Theophilus "would have certainty." Whether Luke realized it or not, he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We then move over to Acts, where Luke tells Theophilus that the former book was about his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. He summarizes all of that. He summarizes and re-emphasizes it. He tells them to stay put in Jerusalem until something supernatural happens to them. Luke is explaining to Theophilus why he is where he is. At the heart of this community is the crucified and resurrected God-man, Jesus Christ. Even though they were told about His

death and resurrection, they didn't believe it. But it happened. In fact, we are told that when Christ rose from the dead, He presented Himself alive... not just existing but alive, and He gave them proof that He was indeed alive. This resurrection was a real thing. It was dead torn flesh, absent of any vitality, being knit together and coming back, not just to life but to eternal life.

The resurrection was proof that everything that Jesus said was true. In rising from the dead, Jesus was the first fruits, and because of that, we will be able to follow in His footsteps, also rising from the dead to everlasting life. He teaches them for forty days. One of the big questions is, "Are you going to establish the Kingdom of Israel now?" Because Jesus has very clearly established Himself as the promised Messiah and as the Son of David, because He is everlasting.

All of these things are still true today. The resurrected Christ is the head of the church, both local and universal. No matter what age or nation, Jesus, as He presents Himself in Scripture, must be at the center of the church.

**The resurrected Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the church.** We will talk here in a bit about the Kingdom, but let's focus on the Holy Spirit right now. He tells them not to leave the area until they have what they need. They needed Christ's teaching. They needed His training. But we already learned from the Old Testament and even from the Gospels themselves, and from the story of Judas, that words and teachings are not enough. He says, "John baptized with water. But you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, not many days from now." Something is going to happen to you soon that is going to change you, and God Himself has said that you will not be ready to do the task that He has for you until the Holy Spirit has changed you. Moving down to verse 8, he says,

“But you will receive power after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” The Holy Spirit is going to equip them in a few days. We have to keep some specific thoughts in mind. This is so different than anything else they have experienced before. Remember that it was not only the apostles but also the larger circle of disciples, at least 70, who were doing miracles. One did not need to have the Holy Spirit in this way to do miracles. We often make this connection that unless there is the Holy Spirit, there are no signs. No, signs existed before the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So this is something that is going to be very unique and necessary. The Holy Spirit

Jesus talks about this back in John 14. Look at verses 16-17. He goes on to say in verse 26 that the Spirit is going to teach them all things. Later on in chapter 16:7-15, we see these promises, and what it amounts to is that it was better for the apostles and disciples and us that Jesus remove Himself bodily in order that the Holy Spirit may come.

If we think ahead to passages in Ephesians and Romans, and I Corinthians, we are reminded of giftedness and being equipped for certain roles in the church supernaturally. This is all done through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is so central to the life and existence of the church that Jesus would not allow the church to do anything until the Holy Spirit transformed them.

I won't go into a theology of the Holy Spirit, or even delve much. We want to avoid the extremes of charismatic teaching. I believe they really do hurt our relationship with God. But we need to have a growing self-awareness that every believer here is indwelt by the Spirit, and thus they are equipped to minister to those within and without the church, because they are the church. If you think about what Luke is writing and

who he is writing to, it's to a guy named Theophilus, explaining why people have the Holy Spirit. If you think about it, Theophilus had seen some sign gifts, because the canon of Scripture was not closed yet.

The Holy Spirit is just as active and working in the church today as He was when He first started changing believers. The mode may have changed somewhat, but there needs to be an awareness of Him. Even if we don't know what our gift is, do we consider the fact that we are gifted and equipped, whether we feel like it or not?

**The resurrected Christ will take the church into His Kingdom.** In verse three, we are told that He was discussing the Kingdom of God. And we see the big picture there over in verse six. (Lord, will you at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?) That is one of the most legitimate questions ever. You've proved them all wrong. You are the Messiah. You are the King. Surely the Kingdom is coming in. How does Jesus respond in verse 7? "You don't need to know that." Mark 13:32, Matthew 24:36. We are to prepare for His coming. But we will not know when that will happen. We continue to work. The church has never had a golden age, and it will never have a golden age. There will never be a time when the church reaches its "apex," so to speak. That only takes place when the Kingdom comes. We have benefits from the future Kingdom, but the Kingdom itself is understood as that future physical Kingdom brought in by the Lord.

The church is not going to create the Kingdom, or bring the Kingdom in, but rather the church will be brought into the Kingdom. What we are doing is not preparing the Kingdom for Christ. As we will see in a moment, we are tasked with creating citizens for the Kingdom.

**The resurrected Christ has a job for the church.** We see it here in Acts 1:8 and Mark 16:15. Jesus commands them to go and create the church. Go and make other disciples. Create a community of people who identify themselves as followers of God through Jesus Christ, and who will go out themselves and call others to Christ.

This is a continuation of what we saw in the Gospels. At least two different times, Jesus sent out His disciples to go into the surrounding countryside, telling people that the Kingdom of God was at hand. *God knows that the most merciful, loving thing He could do for His creation is not only to provide a means for them to know Him, love Him, and dwell with Him forever, but to tell them about it.* He starts doing it Himself. He then teaches His disciples to do it. Now, He is going to ascend into heaven in a bit, and equip His disciples to do the same exact thing. The church, the community of the followers of the way, cannot be separated from its mandate to tell others that they need to follow Jesus. One cannot exist without the other. The church must be focused on glorifying God through the call to discipleship. Otherwise, it is a church that is in disobedience to its Creator. (*Thoughts on calling people to the church*)

**Jesus will return for His church.** We see this in verses 9-11. He ascends, He disappears into a cloud. Two angels appear and tell them that Jesus will return in the same way that they saw Him go into heaven. So Christ ascends, but what is the promise? The promise is that He will return. There is so much to say here about Christ's return, but let's keep it laser-focused on what that meant for these people at this time. Jesus was going to return to earth and bring His kingdom. And from what we have seen in other Scriptures, He will hold the church accountable as to whether they have

followed His mandate. There will be another reckoning where our obedience will be judged, not to salvation, but to blessing. We have talked about this in Philippians 1.

Is CBBC a Christ-centered community that recognizes that we have been equipped to be focused on this specific task that God has given to us, and that we will be held accountable as a church and as individuals for doing that?