

The Next Big Thing

April 23, 2017

I. Three Acts Facts

Acts 1:1-2 In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

1. Acts was written by Luke.

Colossians 4:14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

Luke 1:1-4 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

2. Acts was written for Theophilus.

3. Acts is the second of two volumes.

Acts 17:6 (ESV) And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,

II. The prequel of Acts: the Book of Luke

A. Witnesses to the story of Jesus

1. Those who have been saved and forgiven are witnesses to the story of Jesus.

Luke 24:45-48 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Acts 2:39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

2. A Pentecostal church believes that the things God did in the New Testament God is still doing today.

Luke 24:49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

- Holy desperation is an active acknowledgment that you desire God's plan and power for your life, knowing that nothing else will satisfy.

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Acts 1:3-5 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

B. Expectation creates hunger.

Luke 11:9-13 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

1. God has promised to give His people the gift of His Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity and a relationship with Him is a vital part of the Christian life.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

- Seasons of hunger lead to times of times of refreshing.

Luke 24:49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:6-8 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2. God will provide you with all that you need to accomplish all that God has created you to be and do.

Zechariah 4:6 “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.

3. You cannot do something more without first receiving something more.
 - The Church is God’s strategy for life change.

C. Expecting the Promises of God

Luke 24:49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:50-53 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

1. Do not let being uncomfortable keep you from God's promises.
2. Do not let being uncertain keep you from God's promises.
3. Do not let being busy keep you from God's promises.

D. Spiritual experience begins with personal expectation.

1. Experience flows from expectation.
 - God’s work and God’s will must always line up with God’s Word.
2. Blessing flows from obedience.
 - Preparation precedes blessing
 - Expectation opens the heart to experience.
 - Heavenly Father, may I experience volume two in my life.