

## The Church That Changed The World

### Acts 1:1-11 'Christ-Centered Church'

#### Intro:

I have a big question for you this morning:	What is God's dream for His Church? Webster defines dream – deeply desired goal, 1 over-arching longed for purpose What is God's deepest desire, 1 over-arching longed for purpose for His church?
I always enjoy asking my students that Q:	Right at the start of the semester – What is God's dream for His Church?
I often take them to the events of 1963:	E.g. MLK – 'I have a dream' 1 man who knew if the world could catch this dream, the world changed by this dream They often respond – 'we've never heard that in an Irish accent before!' 😊 I always ask them to consider – if God approached the mic – What is His Dream?
God has a dream for His Church	A Community of Christ-Centered, Spirit-Filled Worshipers of the Triune God Being Formed as Disciples into the Image of Christ Mobilized on Mission to the Ends of the Earth
Reason I share that this morning	(1) Crossroads – believe Fellowship is at a crossroads – new SLT / teach team / Elders (2) There is a dream for His Church & That includes This Church (3) Over next 6 weeks He's going to call us to passionately pursue this dream
And here's where it all started	They were utterly Christ-centered
Turn with me to Acts 1:1-11	<u>Specific Author</u> [Luke, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vol, AD 60-62] <u>Specific Person</u> [Theophilus / Loved by God] <u>Specific Story</u> [Son of God – People of God – Spirit of God – Word of God – Mission of God – Glory of God!]

#### **1. The First Church Were Utterly Christ-Centered (1:1-3)**

Suffered	<u>Passion / Suffer</u> , endure something [death] for someone's sake
Rose Again	<u>Presented himself – many convincing proofs</u>
Ascended	<u>Often overlooked or under-emphasized doctrine / Incredible 2 sides of coin</u> – lifted up & sat down
Return as King	<u>Did you notice he Talks about kingdom here in v3 &amp; v6?</u> / He's going to return to bring about a literal millennial kingdom to rule & reign
Who's Centre?	<u>E.g. Pics of World Map</u> – Who's at the Center of Your World? Who is at the center of your world? And who will be at the centre of this church?

#### **2. The First Church Were Consistently Spirit-Filled (1:4-5)**

Critical Role	Look at the Strategic Placement of & Emphasis Upon the Critical Role The Holy Spirit
3 <sup>rd</sup> Person	Worthy of Worship!

Language	Baptism – POUR OUT AND PLUNGE INTO – Just as John took people, poured out & plunged into depths of water, so Jesus is going to pour out & plunge these believers into the depths of the Holy Spirit  [Paul says in 1 Cor 12:13 – this takes place as you trust in Christ – immersed into body of Christ]  Filled – here in Luke-Acts primarily empowerment for mission, in Paul formation into Christlikeness
Critical	The Spirit is going to be absolutely critical for this church becoming the Church God dreams of  [That’s what happens here – they are radically empowered to be completely committed to Christ’s commission]

### 3. The First Church Were Completely Committed to Christ’s Commission (1:6-8)

Kingdom Restored?	The OT frequently joined outpouring of HS with coming kingdom (Is. 32; Is. 44; Ezek 39; Joel 2)
Power	In the valley between Spirit & Kingdom in all fulness - Dunamis / Dynamite
My Witnesses	Sent by Him, Authorized by Him, Personally Belong to Him / Legal Term – to testify on behalf of
J’em, Judea, Samaria, Ends Earth	Preview of Book / Geographical Aspect - Spread to Rome / Theopolitical Aspect
Completely Committed	Peter boldly proclaims Jesus to the crowds in Jerusalem (Acts 2) Peter & John stand before the Sanhedrin & proclaim Christ (Acts 4) Stephen is filled with HS and stands amidst suffering & declares of Christ as he stoned (Acts 6-7) Philip, being led by the HS, takes the good news to Samaria & to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8) Paul carries the name of Jesus to the world (Acts 9-28) E.g. Agabus & Paul in Acts 20-21

### 4. The First Church Changed the World For Jesus Christ

Quote	“Christianity [i.e. the Church] spread like a flame throughout all the known world of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Century ... It burst in on the world. And its trajectory eventually exploded in Rome and from there spread like a Prairie fire all over the Roman world. [Now] The Church has reached into almost every part of the inhabited globe.” Hayes
Conclusion:	Will Fellowship be church that is centered on Christ, controlled by His Spirit & Committed to Christ’s Commission?

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**WHAT IS GOD'S DREAM FOR HIS CHURCH?**





**A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST-CENTERED, SPIRIT-FILLED WORSHIPPERS  
OF THE TRIUNE GOD**

**BEING FORMED AS DISCIPLES INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST**

**& MOBILIZED ON MISSION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**





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**1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 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. 4 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. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"**

**ACTS 1:1-11**

**7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 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." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."**

**ACTS 1:1-11**



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**ACTS 1:1-3**

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**ACTS 1:9-11**



ARCTIC OCEAN

ARCTIC OCEAN

NORTH AMERICA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

EUROPE

PACIFIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH AMERICA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

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SOUTHERN OCEAN

SOUTHERN OCEAN



ARCTIC OCEAN

ARCTIC OCEAN

ASIA

NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

AFRICA

PACIFIC

ATLANTIC

INDIAN

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SOUTH AMERICA

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OCEANIA

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**(2) THE FIRST CHURCH WAS CONSISTENTLY SPIRIT-FILLED**

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**ACTS 1:4-5**

## Filling of the Spirit in Paul's Letters



Influence & Control of the Spirit,  
Primarily Leading to Character Change  
Into the Image Of Christ

Ephesians 5:18

## Filling of the Spirit in Luke-Acts



Influence & Empowerment of the Spirit,  
Primarily Leading to Proclamation  
& Missional Faithfulness

Acts 1:8; 7:55; 13:9



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**(3) THE FIRST CHURCH WERE COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO CHRIST'S COMMISSION**

**6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 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."**

**ACTS 1:6-8**

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**(4) THE FIRST CHURCH CHANGED THEIR WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST**

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