

January 20, 2019
THE GOD I NEVER KNEW - Introduction
“The Spirit is Coming!”

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit (OT) = *ruah* (Hebrew) = wind, breath = *pneuma* (Greek) = Holy Spirit (NT)

The book of Acts is unique in the New Testament - it's actually the second part of a two-part work written by Luke.

Acts gives us a unique picture of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth and spread of the Church.

Introduction to Acts video - RightNow Media (from The Bible Project)

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

Acts 1:3 (NIV): “After his suffering, he showed himself to these men 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.”

Luke affirms something critically important from his gospel - Jesus, who suffered and died on the cross is, in fact, “alive”.

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV): “⁴On 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. ⁵For John [the Baptist] baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

The coming and baptism of the Holy Spirit is essential to Jesus’ plan.

Jesus: “¹⁵If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17 NIV)

John the Baptist: “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:8 NIV)

In the Old Testament we see the Holy Spirit coming onto specific individuals at specific times to perform specific tasks.

Jesus is telling his disciples that something new is about to happen – the Holy Spirit, who had lived *with* them, would now live in them and all believers.

Jesus: “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7 NIV)

Jesus had to leave so Jesus’ followers could have Jesus with them wherever they went *through the Spirit*.

Jesus: “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” (John 14:12 NIV)

All believers receive or are baptized in the Holy Spirit as we put our faith in Christ.

We have *all of the Spirit* when we welcome Christ into our lives at our conversion, but the real question is, does the Spirit *have all of me*?

Acts 1:6-7 (NIV): “So when they met together, they asked [Jesus], ‘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.’”

What Jesus brought with his first coming was a spiritual kingdom, and only at his second coming will he bring a complete and physical kingdom.

Acts 1:8 (NIV): “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.”

Through the “power” of the “Holy Spirit,” believers will be Jesus’ “witnesses.”

Being a witness is a direct extension of Jesus’ Great Commandment and Great Commission to love God and love neighbor so much that we go and make disciples of them.

A witness is someone who tells what they’ve seen and heard.

In these words of Jesus, Luke has given us the theme for the whole book of Acts.

Acts tells the story of Jesus' followers, empowered by the Holy Spirit, becoming his "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:9-12 (NIV): "9After [Jesus] said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10They 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.' 12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives...."

Jesus' ascension to heaven opens the door to the next vital step in his mission to go and make disciples who will unleash the love of God for the transformation of the world.

Next Week - "The Spirit Has Come!"

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