

Living Out Our faith - Pt1 Acts 1:1-14

V1-5

- In the Hebrew the book of Acts is called: What the Apostles did. Remember Jesus taught the apostles personally, and the book of Acts is the account of how the apostles took what Jesus taught them either by word or deed, and practically applied those teachings to their lives. It also details how those applications would eventually lead to the spread of Christianity to the entire world.
- Verse 1 - Luke, the physician, wrote the book of Acts. We know this by **Luke 1:3**, as he refers to Theophilus in giving an accurate narrative of the gospel. Also in **Acts 16** the account turns from telling someone else's story to including himself on the apostle Paul's missionary journey. Only Luke fits this profile.
- Verse 2 - he begins by giving a short review of what he had written before at the end of the gospel of Luke; almost like volume 1, and afterward he'll begin volume 2. Verse 3 - the Greek word for seen is "Optanomai" from which we get our English word Ophthalmologist or eye doctor. It literally means Jesus was eyeballed, stared at, and scrutinized for 40 days.
- In **John 20:24-25** Thomas had said unless he saw the nail prints in Jesus hands, and the spear wound in His side that he wouldn't believe. According to Luke, Jesus made sure no one else had those reservations anymore, so much so that the apostle Paul would later write in **1 Corinthians 15:1-6** that over 500 saw Jesus in those 40 days after His resurrection, prior to His ascent into heaven.
- Verse 4-5 - the apostles are told by Jesus not to depart from Jerusalem until they receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has prepared them for three years, verbally taught them, physically modeled His example to them, yet He warns them not to print any tracks, hold any bible meetings, do anything until the Holy Spirit has come upon them. How we ought to follow this lesson also.
- I believe it was D.L. Moody who said, "If the Holy Spirit was taken from the church today, 95% of what goes on would continue and nobody would know the difference. But if the Holy Spirit was taken from the early church, 100% of what went on would cease and everybody would know it." Sadly as we look around that statement is true.

V6-14

- They're still not getting it, so they change the subject asking Lord is this the time you are going to establish your kingdom on earth. They want to talk eschatology and find out who is going to be on His right and left hand. The Holy Spirit is mentioned 59 times in the book of Acts. And there would be no godly acts of the apostles and no reading of them doing mighty works for God without them first being controlled by God's Spirit.
- Verse 7 - we don't want to focus on what He's said until we've got some answers. This is for everyone here who thinks you're to know everything concerning God and life. Verse 8 - but the Lord brings them back to the subject at hand, returning to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This experience is described as the receiving of power or dunamis. It's from where we get our English word dynamite-explosive.

- The bible uses three Greek prepositions to describe the relationship between the Person of the Holy Spirit and the believer:
 1. **Para** - to come alongside to help
 2. **En** - being indwelt by the Holy Spirit; no one can be a Christian without the Holy Spirit inside of them (**John 14:17**)
 3. **Epi** - to come upon; to supernaturally be a witness for Jesus, not a denomination, creed, or movement, but for Him
- They know the Holy Spirit in a relationship of para - being with them; they have a relationship with the Holy Spirit as He's in them (**John 20:22**); but they are told here not to do anything until the Holy Spirit is upon them. There are three relationships Jesus talked about that a person can and should have with the Holy Spirit: 1. He's with us, convicting of sin, showing our need to be born-again (**John 14:17**). 2. He dwells in us the moment we receive Jesus as our Savior (**John 20:22**). 3. He comes upon us when He empowers us for His service (**Acts 1:8**). They need this power if they're to be witnesses for Him
- The Greek word for "witness" is where we get our English word martyr. In order for us to die to self for Him we must first be empowered by His Spirit. Jesus mentions where they'll need this power, and folks it is the exact same deal for you and me:
 1. **Jerusalem** - those closest to you, family and friends, neighbors; **Matthew 10:34-37** - it's a very difficult thing for your familiar circle to immediately receive the gospel from you. Why? It takes humility in order for them to stop seeing you as you once were.
 2. **Judea** - coworkers, children's teachers, in-laws, etc
 3. **Samaria** - random strangers, doctors office, vacation, etc
 4. **Utter most part of the earth** - mission trips, etc
- Those were the last recorded words to this group of disciples, that they would soon be empowered in order to impact four groups of people. Notice Jesus didn't say, "You'll witness," rather He said, "You'll be witnesses..." This means the supernatural will happen naturally, as we walk in obedience to His Spirit.
- Verse 9 is very important because if Jesus had not ascended into heaven the first time where would the assurance be that He'll return a second time? But because He did ascend we know He will return. Verse 11 - some have suggested these two men are Moses and Elijah since they were also mentioned in **Matthew 17**. The disciples then adjourn to the upper room, where they are joined by others who wait patiently for the promise that Jesus gave them.
- Verse 14 - Conclusion: Prayer produces unity, and unity empowers prayer. When we get together and pray, listening to each others heart as we make our petitions to God, it breaks down the walls of separation and builds the bonds of peace (**Matthew 18:19-20**).