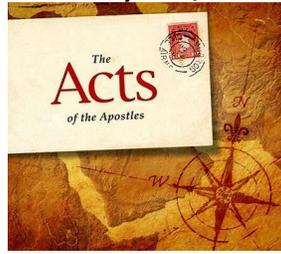




January 22, 2023



Acts 1

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **2** until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the **Holy Spirit** had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, **3** to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the **Promise of the Father**, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; **5** for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the **Holy Spirit** not many days from now." **6** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **8** But you shall receive power when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **11** who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. **13** And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. **14** These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ "Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'" ²¹ "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." ²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- ❖ **Meeting with Jesus after the resurrection**
- ❖ **Ascension**
- ❖ **Waiting for the promise of the Father**
- ❖ **Peter's message and choosing an apostle to replace Judas**

"The Acts of the Apostles should therefore be studied mainly for this double purpose: first, to trace our Lord's unseen but actual continuance of his divine teaching and working; and, secondly, to trace the active ministry of the Holy Spirit as the abiding presence in the church." (Pierson)

What have you anticipated or what are you now anticipating will happen in your future?

Ill. Having a baby; vacation

The Promise

Of the Father

Spoken by Jesus

Waiting of the disciples

The Power

Received by believers

Power

Witnesses

The Prayer

The return

The response

This is a book that describes what Jesus said in regard to the Holy Spirit.

There has been much confusion about the Holy Spirit over the centuries.

The Comforter- John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7

The Holy Spirit indwells believers and [seals](#) them until the day of redemption—this indicates that the Holy Spirit’s presence in the believer is irreversible.

He guards and guarantees the salvation of the ones He indwells ([Ephesians 1:13; 4:30](#)).

The Holy Spirit assists believers in prayer ([Jude 1:20](#)) and “intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God” ([Romans 8:26–27](#)).

The Holy Spirit regenerates and renews the believer ([Titus 3:5](#)).

At the moment of salvation, the Spirit baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ ([Romans 6:3](#)).

Believers receive the new birth by the power of the Spirit ([John 3:5–8](#)).

The Spirit comforts believers with fellowship and joy as they go through a hostile world ([1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14](#)).

The Spirit, in His mighty power, fills believers with “all joy and peace” as they trust the Lord, causing believers to “overflow with hope” ([Romans 15:13](#)).

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sanctification is another work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. The Spirit sets Himself against the desires of the flesh and leads the believer into righteousness ([Galatians 5:16–18](#)). The works of the flesh become less evident, and the fruit of the Spirit becomes more evident ([Galatians 5:19–26](#)). Believers are commanded to “be filled with the Spirit” ([Ephesians 5:18](#)), which means they are to yield themselves to the Spirit’s full control.

The Holy Spirit is also a gift-giver. “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them” ([1 Corinthians 12:4](#)). The [spiritual gifts](#) that believers possess are given by the Holy Spirit as He determines in His wisdom (verse 11).

The Holy Spirit also does work among unbelievers. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” ([John 16:8, ESV](#)).

The Spirit testifies of Christ ([John 15:26](#)), pointing people to the Lord. Currently, the Holy Spirit is also restraining sin and combatting “the secret power of lawlessness” in the world. This action keeps the rise of the Antichrist at bay ([2 Thessalonians 2:6–10](#)).

The Holy Spirit has one other important role, and that is to give believers wisdom by which we can understand God. *“These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God”* ([1 Corinthians 2:10–11](#)). Since we have been given the amazing gift of God’s Spirit inside ourselves, we can comprehend the thoughts of God, as revealed in the Scripture. The Spirit helps us understand. This is wisdom from God, rather than wisdom from man. No amount of human knowledge can ever replace the Holy Spirit’s teaching ([1 Corinthians 2:12–13](#)).

The Holy Trinity- The Father The Son The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a person on the trinity. Verse 1 talks about the Holy Spirit.

Jesus spoke about blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

And so now Jesus speaks to them about the Promise of the Father and responds to a question just before he ascends into Heaven!

What an amazing event!

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

III. Elijah- 2 Kings 2:11

4 Valuable Lessons to be learned from anticipating the Promise of the Father

- **1. The Importance of Assembly- We need to meet together as children of God**

And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the **Promise of the Father**, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the **Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Philippians 1:5-6

A common occurrence was the gathering together of the church.

Acts 12:12; 14:27; 15:30

A unique Greek word, used 10 of its 12 New Testament occurrences in the Book of Acts, helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community. Homothumadon is a compound of two words meaning to "rush along" and "in unison". The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church.

Supplication- a seeking, asking, entreating, entreaty to God or to man

This is much too uncommon it would seem in the church today.

- **2. The Importance of Obedience- We must listen to the Words from God.**

He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the **Promise of the Father.**

“dutiful or submissive compliance to the commands of one in authority.”

Philippians 2:8; Luke 6:46

Living the Christian life is not all about rules! Legalism-coldness

It is significant that this coming, filling, and empowering of the Holy Spirit is called “the Promise of the Father.”

- **3. The Importance of Faith- We must trust what God said even if we do not see it now.**

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew;

Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James.

- **To wait** means that it was worth waiting for.
- **To wait** means that they had a promise it would come.
- **To wait** means they must **receive** it; they couldn't create it themselves.
- **To wait** means that they would be tested by waiting, at least a little.

It shows that we should wait for it with eager anticipation; a "Promise of the Father" could only be good.

It shows that it is reliable; the Father would never Promise something He could not fulfill.

It shows that the Promise belongs to all His children, since it comes from God as our Father.

It shows that it must be received by faith, as is the pattern with the promises of God throughout the Bible.

Hebrews 11 clearly shows the relevance of faith.

Romans 4:19-21- Abraham

For we walk by faith and not by sight.

Hebrews 10:32-34

Deferred gratification causes us to live differently. For example, we continue our education now so that we'll have more opportunities after we graduate. We save today so we can have financial security later in life. We exercise now so that we might be healthier as we age. Our perspective on the future impacts our decisions in the present.

This is a truth taught throughout the Bible. Paul, drawing from his experience as a tentmaker, gives a fascinating picture of this:

"We know that if our temporary, earthly dwelling is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal dwelling in the heavens, not made with hands".

2 Cor. 5:1

Live with an eternal perspective.

This idea saturates Scripture. The biblical emphasis on keeping eternity in our view reminds us of the brevity of our existence. The Bible compares life to a vapor that is here today and gone tomorrow. Having this fixed in our mind points us to a reality that goes far beyond the years we may have on this earth. Recognizing this truth, it would be foolish to obsess over such a small portion of our existence. Wisdom would have us remain focused on [what happens after this life is over](#).

Engage the confident hope that permeates our lives.

In 2 Corinthians 5:7, Paul says, “We walk by faith, not by sight.” Paul’s point is that currently we live our lives based on faith, but one day that will no longer be the case. Then we’ll walk by sight because we can actually see the fulfillment of God’s promises to us. But for today, in a life characterized by our stumbling attempts at walking without sight, we rest our hope in our currently unseen Savior. It is hope now because it is faith in what is to come. One day that hope will be realized into full sight, but for today a [confident hope should shape you](#).

Embrace a proper understanding of our reality.

In 2 Corinthians 5:9, Paul writes,

“Whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him.” Herein is the truth that we cannot miss. Paul says we make it our aim to please God, both now when we are in our physical bodies and later when we see rightly and live for eternity. For Paul, the promise of the resurrection leads to a current life shaped around resurrection values. We want to please Jesus in our brief time here so that we might worship Jesus for an eternal time there. The hope of personal presence later leads to the desire of personal actions now. In the end, the focus is not necessarily on heaven, but on life now lived in light of heaven.

This is not my best life now.

There are good moments for which we should praise God, but we know there are challenges, difficulties, struggles, physical ailments, hurt and pain. The world is indeed broken. But the good news is [Jesus will make all things right, including you and me](#). For those who follow Christ, we will be in right, perfect-sighted relationship with Him for eternity, and that should cause us to live differently now. It should cause us to take the long view.

- **4. The Importance of being empowered by the Holy Spirit – We must walk daily in the power of the Holy Spirit**

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Luke 4:14; 1 Corinthians 2:4, 5; Acts 4:33; 26:18

2 Corinthians 12:9- And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit: The idea of being baptized is to be immersed or covered over in something; even as John baptized people in water, so these disciples would be "immersed" in the Holy Spirit.

It may be more useful to describe the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a condition than as an experience. We should perhaps ask, "Are you baptized in the Holy Spirit?" instead of asking, "Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?"

Notice that this really wasn't a command; it was a simple statement of fact: When the Holy Spirit has come upon you... you shall be witnesses of Me. The words shall be are in the indicative, not the imperative. Jesus didn't recommend that they become witnesses; He said they would be witnesses.

Walk in the Spirit- Galatians 5:16, 25

Led by the Spirit- Romans 8:14

➤ **We must be on guard about ritual and not being spirit led!!!**

Amos 5:23-27

Of course, even if we do sense a special guidance from the Holy Spirit, we still have God's voice permanently established in His Word. Any perceived guidance from the Holy Spirit will never disobey God's written word to us.

We would not make many wrong decisions if we did all the things the disciples did before making big decisions.

- The disciples obeyed.
- The disciples were in unity and fellowship.
- The disciples were in prayer.
- The disciples were in the Scriptures.
- The disciples wanted to do God's will.
- The disciples used sanctified common sense.
- The disciples did what Jesus did.
- The disciples did what they could do to rely on God.