

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; Acts 1
Considering the path from the tomb to the world

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8 NKJV *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be (My) witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

It is normal that when you see the book of Acts, you will often see the phrase, "the acts of the apostles".

I would like to ask you, for our continued study, to consider using the phrase "**the acts of the apprentices**".

We are looking portions of Acts as a continuation of what Jesus taught and modeled.

As we get started, we want to ask some questions.

- Are you beginning to see the difference between saying you "believe" compared to "believing and following"?

Yeshua called people to follow Him. Belief was a constant challenge based on perspective and expectation.

Our Lord Jesus was asking people to apprentice under His tutelage. Take it like this, "Come and watch my lifestyle."

- Do you remember reading a narrative where Jesus said to anyone, "Come and follow me, stay exactly as you are because you need no changes"?
- Have you ever read a scripture in the NT in red letters that records Jesus saying, "Follow me and I will help you stay comfortable in your habits, your struggles, and your sin"?

Let's read the first chapter of Acts as a continuation of "Walking In The Way Of Jesus"
Acts reveals to us the path from the tomb to the world.

Chris reads: Acts 1:1-26 NKJV

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 (ascended into heaven), 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 (unmistakable) 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 (My) witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Let's consider the phrase, "Jesus began both to do and teach,".....Lifestyle. His actions matched His attitudes and verbal proclamations. (Hold and make eye contact and reread) He did not say one thing and do another.

Let's focus on the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. We so appreciate what Gary Morehouse shared with us via video earlier in the service. We will all be learning more about the Godhead or the God family involving the work of the Holy Spirit.

Let's consider the concept of "waiting". These disciples were not taking naps, being lazy, and doing nothing at all but rather holding themselves from going into all these places in their own strength, power, and glory.

Let me ask you to look into "the Promise of the Father" phrase. We may post some study helps this week?

Let's consider the difference between "Power" and "Presence".

Power can be a very self-serving pursuit. Presence is all about a shared relationship.

*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 (purpose or mind) in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.***

I would like you to notice and take note of verse 11. This is an amazing nugget regarding future events.

I understand that there is a conversation regarding the difference between individualism and collectivism. I believe in a balanced approach because of what I see in scripture. Studying the acts of the apprentices for years has helped me embrace God's plan of church.

These people lived in active community together. There will come a time in your pursuit of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit when you will realize that life is not just about you and what you want.

There is a "shared experience" of the Spirit of God that creates an enlarged ability to share on a sacrificial level.

“God will only reveal Himself through us to the extent that we allow Him to fill every corner of our hearts and lives. The magnificent and heart stopping truth is that you can have as much of God as you could possibly want.”

“Prayer is the pathway to the presence of God.”

*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 (intestines) 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 (position of overseer).’

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.

Jesus called people to follow Him. There was room for anyone regardless of their past sin or failures. It was a call to change, hope, and freedom unlike what a human system offers.

There is good speculation on why they added to the number to keep it at twelve but it also highlights the shared mission of being a witness together of the resurrection. The mission necessitates that we enlarge the number of people that will stand in the gap to proclaim the good news of our Lord through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Becoming a disciple, follower, or apprentice of Jesus of Nazareth has and still involves three simple yet profound concepts.

- 1. Learning**
- 2. Growing**
- 3. Changing.**

One last question:

If The Holy Spirit were removed from the church and our lives, would anything change?