



Acts: 1:1-5 “The Promise of The Holy Spirit” (Jesus Continues His Work Through His Church)

Intro:

The Book of Acts was written by Luke, the beloved doctor and companion of Paul, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke. Acts is the second volume of his account, continuing the story of what Jesus began to do and teach. It is written to Theophilus (As is the Gospel of Luke)—his name means “lover of God.” Some believe he may have been a Roman official, but more importantly, Luke writes so that he—and all who read—would have certainty about the truth of the Gospel (Luke 1:3–4). What we need to understand is this: The Book of Acts is not just a historical book—it is the continuation of the work of Jesus. The Gospel of Luke shows us what Jesus began to do. The Book of Acts shows us what Jesus continues to do. And how does He continue His work? Not physically walking on earth like before... but now through His Church and by the power of the Holy Spirit. That’s the key to understanding this book. Acts is about how by the Holy Spirit, through His church Jesus continues to spread the Gospel, grow His church Church, and the advance of the Kingdom of God—from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Today, in Acts 1:1–5, we are at the very beginning. And in these opening verses, Luke gives us a foundation for everything that follows. He shows us: that *Jesus is still working*, that *His message has not changed*, and that *we, His church, are only able to carry out His mission by the power of the Holy Spirit*.

V.1-2

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with ***all that Jesus began to do and teach***, until the day when he was taken up, *after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.*”

1. Jesus Continues His Work Through His Church

When Luke refers to “the first book,” he is pointing back to the Gospel of Luke, which ends with the ascension of Jesus. But notice what he says—his first book was about all that Jesus *began* to do and teach. That means the clear implication is this: **Jesus is not finished working**. The Gospel shows us the beginning of His work, and Acts shows us its continuation. But how does Jesus continue His work now? Not physically walking on the earth as before—but now **through His Church and by the power of the Holy Spirit**. This is why He gave commands to His apostles and sent them out. And that same mission extends to us. We are His witnesses and ambassadors, called to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through repentance and faith in Christ (***Luke 24:46-48, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Mathew 28:18-20***). This is not a secondary calling—it is **our purpose**. The early church was not perfect—they struggled, they sinned, they needed correction. Yet they understood this: **their lives were not their own**. They were willing to give everything—even their lives—**for the sake of Christ and His Gospel**. We need to recover that same conviction—that there is nothing greater in life than knowing Christ and making Him known (Philippians 1:21; Romans 10:14–15).

V.3

“He presented himself **alive** to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and **speaking about the kingdom of God.**”

2. Jesus Continues His Message of The Kingdom of God

After His resurrection, Jesus presented Himself alive with many proofs, even appearing to more than 500 brothers at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6). And what was He teaching during those forty days? **The same message He had always preached—the Kingdom of God**. The message did not change after the cross. The resurrection did not replace the Kingdom—it **confirmed it**.

The Kingdom of God Arrived in Jesus:

- The Kingdom of God had already arrived in the person of Jesus. He told the Pharisees that the Kingdom was already in their midst (**Luke 17:20–21**). In other words, wherever the King is, there is the Kingdom. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Christ defeated sin and death and inaugurated His reign (Colossians 1:13).

To Receive It One Must Repent and Believe in the Gospel And Be Born Again:

- But this Kingdom must be entered—and Jesus made it clear how. It requires repentance and faith in the Gospel (Mark 1:14–15), and it requires new birth (John 3:3) No one inherits it by tradition. **You must be born again.**

As Believers We Are To Seek The Spread of It On Earth:

- And now, as His people, we are called not only to enter the Kingdom but to **seek its spread**. We pray for it (Matthew 6:9–10), we prioritize it (Matthew 6:33), and we proclaim it to others (Acts 8:12).

It is important to understand: **the Kingdom is already here, but not yet fully realized**. Christ reigns now—He is saving, transforming, and ruling—but we still await the day when His Kingdom will be fully revealed, when sin is gone, death is defeated, and every tear is wiped away (Revelation 21:3–4). So what is our mission in this time? **To proclaim that the King has come, that salvation is available now, and that His Kingdom is coming in fullness.**

V.4-5

“And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, *but to wait for the promise of the Father*, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, **but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**””

3. Jesus Continues His Mission By The Power of The Holy Spirit

Before the disciples were sent out, Jesus gave them a surprising command: **wait**. He did not tell them to strategize, organize, or immediately go out. He told them to wait for the promise of the Father—the Holy Spirit. Why? Because **the mission of God cannot be accomplished in human strength**. Jesus had already told them, “apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). And the way Christ continues His work in us and through us is by His Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, there is no power, no transformation, no lasting fruit (Zechariah 4:6). Now, every believer is born again and sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). But Scripture also shows that believers can live in a way that resists His leading. We can grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30), and walk according to the flesh instead of the Spirit. That is why we are commanded to **walk by the Spirit** (Galatians 5:16) and to **keep in step with the Spirit** (Galatians 5:25). If we try to carry out God’s mission in our own strength, we will be ineffective. But if we allow the Spirit to fill, lead, and empower us, Christ continues His work through us in a way that brings real, lasting fruit. We see a beautiful example of this in Paul:

• “And when I came to you, brothers and sisters, *I did not come as someone superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*. I also was with you **in weakness and fear**, and in great trembling, and **my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of mankind, but on the power of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NASB2020

