

## **WAITING FOR THE SPIRIT**

### **Acts 1:12-26**

Acts picks up the story where Luke concludes.

Messiah has come.

Israel's leaders didn't want to hear the good news of His arrival.

They were more interested in protecting their interests than participating in God's program.

Only the outcasts of society were interested in following Him.

God began a new program with the outcasts who wanted to follow Him.

**Luke explains WHY God began a new program.**

**Acts explains HOW God formed His new program**

**Luke's purpose is to describe how God formed the early church.**

The evidence of God's participation in the formation of the church, as well as the evidence of His protection of those who form part of it, serve to encourage those who are suffering for their faith in Christ.

*This is God's work and He will care for them.*

## **PREPARATION FOR THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT 1:1-26**

The church's formation begins with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

However, Acts begins with the preparation for His coming (1:1-26).

## **CHRIST'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS 1:1-11**

### **Review of Luke's conclusion 1:1-3**

The account begins where Luke ends.

He first describes the things Jesus *began* to do and teach (1:1).

By implication, Luke describes the things He *continues* to do.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He remained on the earth with His followers for 40 days.

During that time, He confirmed their faith with many evidences to convince them of the reality of His power and His resurrection.

At the end of that time He gave them instructions to continue His ministry and He promised them God's provision to fulfill it (1:2-3 cp. Luke 24:36-49).

### **Promise of the Spirit's coming 1:4-8**

After relating this account back to the conclusion of Luke (1:1-3), Luke focuses on one final meeting in which Jesus promises the coming of the Holy Spirit

He picks up the account where he left off in Luke 24:46-53.

According to the gospel, Jesus indicates that they will be witnesses of what they had seen.

That task would be carried out when He would send what the Father promised.

In order that the promise might be fulfilled, they would have to wait in Jerusalem until they received the power which He would send them (Luke 24:48-49)

The promise is the starting point of the Acts account.

**The coming of the Holy Spirit:**

**Promised 1:4-8**

**Provided 2:1-36**

**Productive 2:37-28:31 => 2005 + ?**

**The disciples are told to go back to Jerusalem and wait for a few days until the Spirit comes (Acts 1:4).**

**They would be “baptized with the Holy Spirit” (1:5)**

This work of the Spirit, seen for the first time on the day of Pentecost, has been seen in the church throughout centuries.

The baptism of the Spirit is God’s work in the life of believers, by means of which those who are born again, are united with Him and with His church.

As members of that body, we receive a spiritual gift, a capacity to serve Him which demonstrates His power in our life.

The presence of that power bears witness that the baptism of the Spirit has occurred in us (Acts 11:15-18).

**Baptism by the Holy Spirit**



**Membership in the Body of Christ**



**Function within the body as members (spiritual gifts)**



**Demonstration of God's power**

The apostles' concern 1:6

The apostles knew that the Holy Spirit's coming had been promised.

It had to happen before God's kingdom could be established

When they heard this promise, they asked the logical next question: "*What about the kingdom? Would it be set up soon?*"

As faithful Jewish people, they desired the coming of the kingdom and wanted to know the truth (1:6).

Jesus doesn't contradict, nor try to change their concept of the kingdom. He didn't tell them they were wrong.

They were correct in their assumption!

Jesus' answer 1:7

Jesus responds that it wasn't their place to analyze and interpret God's prophetic calendar. He hadn't called them to wander the countryside giving prophecy conferences

Jesus' command 1:8

He called them to be His witnesses throughout the whole world.

In a few days the promise will be fulfilled.

Then they will use the power God gives them to share the good news about Jesus around the world.

### **Description of the Lord's ascension 1:9-11**

After Jesus leaves this final promise, He ascends into heaven.

The disciples stand watching, as if expecting something else to happen.

Angelic messengers tell them there's no point waiting there watching.

It's time to get on with what He told them to do.

They promise that He will return in the same way as He ascended.

### **DEDICATION TO PRAYER 1:12-14**

The disciples return to Jerusalem as the Lord instructed them and dedicate themselves to prayer.

The Lord had already spoken to them about the importance of this preparation in **Luke 11:9-13**.

The power they will receive is a prerequisite to establishing the kingdom.

The description of their prayer indicates two prerequisites for effective prayer. *What were they?*

They asked persistently and unanimously.

They wouldn't give up.

They all knew what they wanted.

All in unison insisted in asking for God's will to be done.

As a result of their prayer, God's will was accomplished (Luke 11:5-13; John 14:13).

*What does that teach us about God's pattern for our praying?*

Finally, we should notice the *order* for accomplishing God's work.

He didn't tell them to get busy, running all over the place preaching.

They're to *WAIT* for the power of God's Spirit to enable them to minister effectively.

That wasn't going to happen until they recognized their dependence on Him and asked for it.

*What does that teach us about our witness for Christ?*

Although we have the Spirit of God within us from the moment of our salvation, we still have to recognize our dependence on Him, and submit

ourselves to His control to experience fruitful ministry.

*We can't do it in our own strength.*

Don't go out charged by the flesh!

Depend on His control.

### **SELECTION OF A SUBSTITUTE 1:15-26**

As they were praying concerning God's plan for their future ministry, Peter is led to propose the naming of a substitute for Judas.

The context of the event, the lack of biblical censure, and the significance of the substitute suggest that this was motivated by God's direction.

The appointment of Matthias was caused by the loss of one of *the twelve*. They were frequently referred to by that name.

It was inconceivable that they have a continual reminder of the defection of Judas.

The presence of twelve would demonstrate that **God's program was not upset by Judas' failure.**

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*What prerequisites were necessary for the right person to fill Judas' spot?*

*What do they teach us about how to choose leadership for God's people?*

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**TESTIMONY IN JERUSALEM 2-8:3**

The testimony of the church to Jesus began in Jerusalem.

*What lessons do we learn from Acts 1 about how we should go about fulfilling the Great Commission in our day?*