

January 22, 2022

## Day 1: Acts 1:1

***In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach***

Luke is the author of Acts. Acts is the second volume of a two volume work and was written at the same time. Theophilus is believed to be an actual person but the book is intended for a congregation. Acts will demonstrate how the Church at the time of this writing (30-40 years after the Resurrection) is a direct outgrowth of Jesus' ministry.

**Question:** What is your favorite multi-volume book?

**Challenge:** Write down on a piece of paper all you recall from Jesus' life in the order you think it happened.

**Scripture:** Luke 5:1-26

## Day 2: Acts 1:2

***until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.***

Luke—Acts is about Jesus and His Church and is written to show how God came in human form and left the Spirit to continue God's presence on earth. Luke is very definite about Jesus being taken up to heaven and that the Holy Spirit remains with the disciples. During Jesus' ministry there were more than 12 Disciples but the disciples referred to here are to be witnesses to the resurrection. By our acceptance of Christ as Lord **we** become witnesses to the resurrection. Being a witness is different than giving an opinion. A witness tells accurately what they saw or heard without attaching meaning to the event.

**Question:** Have you ever been a witness to something and needed to tell what you saw or heard? If so what was it like?

**Challenge:** If someone asked you to explain the Holy Spirit, what would you say?

**Scripture:** Luke 26:36-49

## Day 3: Acts 1:3

***After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.***

Jesus appeared to the disciples a number of times and in different places so that they could truly believe that he rose from the dead. The disciples were not slow to believe but they were to begin a new way of living and relating to God and they needed to be absolutely sure that God was with them in life and in death. Some of the first disciples lost their lives for their belief. They had to know their belief was worth dying for.

**Question:** What would convince you that Jesus was raised from the dead?

**Challenge:** If you wanted to give one piece of wisdom to someone what would it be?

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-25

## Day 4: Acts 1:4

***On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.***

The process of serving in God's name begins first with belief in the mission. Second, knowledge about what that mission is all about. Third, a sign from God that the Spirit is directing us to begin. We can do nothing without the Spirit of God leading us and empowering us. It may take us days, weeks, months, to prepare for service but when God wants us, we will be sent forth.

**Question:** How did you decide (if you have already) to be in the job you are in?

**Challenge:** Think back over your life to see when God has directed you in one direction or another.

**Scripture:** Luke 24:35-53

## Day 5: Acts 1:5

***For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."***

John the Baptist prepared people for the coming of Christ by having them repent of their sin. This put them in a state of mind so that they could hear the Good News. As the water of Baptism flows over us, so the Spirit of God will flow over us and it will flow into us. The Spirit gives us the assurance of salvation. The water cleanses us and the Spirit gives us life.

**Question:** What do you know about your baptism?

**Challenge:** Do a little research to find out the day, time, place, and who came to your baptism.

**Scripture:** Luke 3:15-20

## Day 6: Acts 1:6

***So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"***

This is a request for the Kingdom of God to come. We know that the time of the Kingdom is in God's hands but we still want that time to come now. Jesus in His physical leaving and sending of the Spirit is telling us that the Kingdom is still here in part so that we can feel its benefits, but that some day it will come in fullness. Until that day we have the Church to be the physical manifestation of Christ on earth - the body of Christ.

**Question:** Do you like the image of the Church as being the body of Christ?

**Challenge:** How do you think the world would be different if the Church was not here?

**Scripture:** Mark 16:14-20