

“Go Into All The World And Preach The Gospel”

Acts 1:1-8

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To examine the circumstances in **Acts chapter 1** leading up to the baptism of the Holy Spirit in **Acts chapter 2** and the subsequent Church age. To realize the Kingdom of God is a central motif within the teachings of Jesus. To recognize the importance of being empowered by the Holy Spirit as we minister to others today. To understand Jesus has called every Christian to be a missionary at home first, then to our community, our nation, and finally to the ends of the earth.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: A brief introduction to the Book of Acts (Acts 1:1-3)

1. What former account does Luke refer to in **verse 1**? Who did Luke address the Book of Acts to? What additional information can we learn about this individual from **Luke 1:1-4**? Do we know if this individual was a Jew or a Gentile? What do we know?
2. According to **verses 1 & 2**, what was Luke’s purpose in writing the Book of Acts? What was Luke referring to when he said, *“until the day in which He was taken up?”* (See **Acts 1:9-11**) What made this event so important in understanding who Jesus is?
3. Jesus presented Himself ten or eleven times after the resurrection to His followers (**vs. 3**). Why was it important for Jesus to spend this time with His disciples, even eating with Him? What was Jesus proving? Did Jesus reveal Himself to unbelievers in his post-resurrection appearances or to believers only? (See **Matt. 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-18; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-31; 21:1-23; Acts 1:3:15; 1 Cor. 15:1-9**)
4. What was the central topic Jesus spoke about with His disciples in the 40 days following His resurrection (**vs. 3**)? As already mentioned, the Kingdom of God was a central theme in the teachings of Jesus. Why do you think the modern church doesn’t teach about the Kingdom of God more often? Where can we find Jesus teaching about the Kingdom of God in the New Testament? What is the meaning of the word *“parable”* and how do parables help us to better understand the Kingdom of God? (See **Matt. 13:1-58; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15**)

5. It is important to note, *“The goal of history is not the cross, but the crown.”* Why do so many Christians look back to the cross and not forward to the crown. Would it help us in our Christian walk today if we did look ahead to that future glory? Why? (See **Rom. 8:18**)

6. Have you noticed the number 40 is mentioned many times in Scripture? What examples come to mind? Note: The number 40 is used at least 146x in Scripture. What is the significance of this number and why is it used so often? (Hint: Search online)

Part II: The power of the Holy Spirit and His importance to ministry (Acts 1:4-8)

1. Who was assembled with Jesus in **verse 4**? Jerusalem was a dangerous place to be, Jesus had just been crucified there and the disciples had been forced into hiding. What troubling command did Jesus give to His disciples in **verse 4**? Why did this require trust? What was the Promise of the Father? (See **Joel 2:28-29**) Had Jesus also promised the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit? (See **John 14:15-18,26; 15:26-27; 16:7-8**) What is the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity? What is the Holy Spirit’s role within the Trinity?

2. What can we learn about the baptism of the Holy Spirit from **1 Cor. 12:12-14**? According to these Scriptures, is the baptism of the Holy Spirit something that every born-again believer already has or something they should be seeking? Rather than the baptism of the Spirit, what should every born-again believer continually seek? (See **Eph 5:17-21**)

3. What two baptisms are mentioned by Jesus in **verse 5**? What is the difference between the two? According to Jesus, when would this baptism take place? On what Jewish festival do we find the words of Jesus being fulfilled? (See **Acts 2:1-4**) How is the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church age different from His work in the Old Testament?

4. As Jesus was preparing to leave earth and ascend into heaven, what question was on the mind of His disciples (**vs. 6**)? Were the disciples looking for a political kingdom (like that of Kings David and Solomon) to overcome Roman oppression, or were they looking for a spiritual kingdom? What kind of kingdom would Jesus bring in the immediate future?

5. How did Jesus respond to the apostle's inquiry (**vs. 7**)? Had Jesus already addressed this issue with them before? (See **Mark 13:32-33**) If Jesus is Immanuel (God with us), how could He not know the day nor hour? What is the meaning of the theological term: "*the hypostatic union of Christ?*" (Hint: Search online)

6. With everything happening in the world today, do you think the return of Jesus Christ is getting close? What are you doing in preparation for His coming? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your evangelism efforts? What are some ways you can improve?

7. What did Jesus promise would happen once the Holy Spirit came upon His disciples? (**vs. 8**) What mission did He give to his disciples in **verse 8**? What Greek word for "*witness*" is used in this verse? (See Commentaries) What English word does this sound like? What was Jesus actually saying to His disciples? What is He saying to us today?

8. The culture is rapidly changing in America today, a nation that was once friendly to Christianity is not so much anymore. What is the threat to Christianity as Marxism grows to greater prominence in our country? How do you see Marxism affecting our country today?

9. In "*the Great Commission*," Jesus called for every believer to be a missionary. (See **Matt. 28:18-20**) According to **verse 8**, what should the order of our missionary outreach be? If people refuse to act as missionaries at home, should we be spending thousands of dollars to send them out to be missionaries in other parts of the world? Why or why not? What should be a prerequisite for every missionary?

10. What kinds of missionary work are you doing today? What are your spiritual gifts? What do you see as your greatest spiritual gift? (See **Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 27-28; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**) How are you using these gifts today?

Part III: The importance of local, national and world missions.

1. Shoreline Community Church currently supports 15 missionaries and mission organizations. The church designates 11% of our annual income to missions with an additional \$1,000.00 per month going to help Pastor Shay Spencer with the new church plant in Union, Missouri. Why is it important for us as a church to tithe from our income? On a scale of 1-10, how are you doing at tithing?
2. Kris deals with several areas of ministry: 1) Ministry to the deaf; 2) Ministry to the Dearborn and greater Detroit Muslim community; 3) Jail ministry; 4) Suicide ministry; and 5) Human trafficking. Which of these ministries do you think would be the most difficult to work in? Why?
3. How has Kris' testimony challenged you today? Which part of his testimony has made the greatest impact on you?
4. Have you ever thought about supporting a missionary above and beyond your regular tithe? Why is it important for us to support missionaries?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts to the same man, Theophilus.
- **Acts chapter 1** picks up the story right where **Luke chapter 24** leaves off.
- **Acts chapter 1** addresses events that take place during the 40 days following the resurrection of Christ.
- John's baptism was a national baptism (Israel) for the repentance of sin in preparation of the coming Messiah.
- Today, the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment of regeneration.
- The Holy Spirit is a gift from God to man giving us new life and empowerment for ministry.
- Every Christian is called to be a missionary.
- Missions should start at home and then expand out into the rest of the world.