

The Acts of the Risen Christ

Chapter One

Audio lesson: New Testament 31



Objective: To introduce the book of Acts and the promise of the Holy Spirit.



Then Jesus came to them and said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8

The Book of Acts is the history book of the New Testament church. It connects the four Gospels to the letters of Paul and gives us much of the story behind the other New Testament writings. This book begins the same way the four Gospels end: with the Great Commission. In the Great Commission, Jesus told His disciples to “make disciples,” and in order to do that, they would have to go, preach, baptize, and teach. In the book of Acts, this is exactly what we see the disciples doing. It is the story of the Great Commission beginning to be fulfilled.

Chapter 2 describes the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. This was one of the most important events in the history of the people of God because the church simply cannot fulfill its purpose without the power of the Holy Spirit. This is also true for us as individuals. When we attempt to make a disciple for Jesus Christ, we are attempting the impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Acts is the history of very ordinary people doing very extraordinary things because they are anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit of God. That same God, that same power, is available to us to do His work today.

1. True or false? The author of the book of Acts was Luke, a doctor, and he also wrote the third Gospel.
2. True or false? The Book of Acts begins where the Gospels end, with the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.
3. True or false? Because the Book of Acts is a book of history, it is not very important for us to study today.



4. True or false? The stories in the book of Acts are all neatly resolved, showing that the works of the early church had concluded and its era had come to an end.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What other titles have people suggested for the book of Acts?
 - a. The Acts of the Apostles
 - b. The Acts of the Holy Spirit
 - c. The Acts of the Risen Lord
 - d. All of the above.

6. What was God's purpose in giving us history books like the book of Acts?
 - a. Only to give us examples to follow
 - b. Only to give us warnings to heed
 - c. To give us both examples and warnings
 - d. Only to give us entertaining stories

7. According to the book of Acts what is the purpose of the church?
 - a. To go and tell other people about the gospel
 - b. To make disciples of those who believe the gospel
 - c. To baptize them once they have believed the gospel
 - d. To teach them to obey all of Jesus Christ's commands
 - e. All of the above

8. What promise were the disciples told to wait for in Jerusalem?
 - a. The return of Jesus
 - b. The coming of the Holy Spirit in power
 - c. The fulfillment of the Great Commission
 - d. The completion of their education

9. Why did Luke not end the story of the book of Acts?
 - a. He ran out of paper.
 - b. The Church is still writing its own history today.
 - c. He died before he finished writing.
 - d. He wrote the ending, but parts of the book were lost throughout history.

10. How many decided to follow Jesus as their Lord because of Peter's first message?
 - a. About 3,000
 - b. Everyone who was there
 - c. Almost no one because they were all afraid
 - d. Luke does not tell us how many

11. What was the significance of the Feast of Pentecost?
 - a. It was a celebration of the harvest.
 - b. It was a memorial to Jewish martyrs.
 - c. It was a celebration of the Exodus, God's deliverance of the Jews from Egypt.
 - d. It was simply a day for Jews to take time off from work.

12. Why was this an appropriate and symbolic time for the Holy Spirit to come?
 - a. It represents the fact that we do not have to do any work anymore; the Great Commission is all up to God's power.
 - b. It kept the Spirit's presence a secret from the Jewish leaders since so many of them were out of town for the holiday.
 - c. It represents the Spirit's power working through us to harvest souls and fulfill the Great Commission.
 - d. It represents the last of God's great works among humanity.

13. What did the miraculous signs of Pentecost mean?
 - a. They were a pattern that we must duplicate again and again.
 - b. They signified that only the apostles could have access to supernatural power.
 - c. They teach us that we can only encounter God in a very emotional experience.
 - d. They were a prophecy to those who heard, as well as a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.



In what ways can the Holy Spirit help you know God and fulfill His purposes? Have you asked God for this gift of being empowered by His Spirit? If not, would you consider asking Him to empower you for His purposes now?



Thank God that He has come to His people in power and that He is still working through the church today. Ask Him to continue to empower you through His Spirit, and ask Him to give you opportunities to help fulfill the Great Commission this week.



Going Deeper

1. For what did Jesus instruct His followers to wait before they began to obey His Great Commission? _____

2. What is the significance of the fact that the book of Acts begins with the Great Commission and all four Gospels end with that same Commission? _____

3. How did the apostles know they were to teach those who professed to be disciples of Jesus? _____

4. When you decide to personally obey the Great Commission, what four specific commands of Jesus are you to obey? (Consider Matthew 28: 18-20) _____

5. How long does it take to teach a newly-professed disciple all the things that Jesus commanded the apostles to observe while they were following Him every day for three years? _____

6. Generally speaking, is the Church of Jesus Christ obeying these four commandments of Jesus today? _____

7. Thinking specifically, have you ever taken the Great Commission of Jesus seriously enough to personally obey that commission yourself? Do you agree with this statement of a devout missionary statesman: "The Great Commission is the Charter of the Church and like any other organization the Church must fulfill the terms of its charter or it should cease and desist"?
