

Acts 1:1-11 The Power Source

In the last century, Coca-Cola launched a worldwide enterprise.

A) You can go just about anywhere in the world and buy a Coke.

B) They are the world's largest multi-national corporation.

1) Go to almost any country and you will discover that although the languages are different,

2) Their computers look and work just like, the one you have at home with the familiar Windows programs

Well 2000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem a revolution was birthed that has spanned 20 Centuries has spread to the ends of the earth.

A) This revolution wasn't financed by wealthy investors

B) it wasn't promoted thru slick advertising campaigns and marketing techniques

1) It wasn't the result of some Political popularity contest.

C) It was Started, influenced and sustained by the Power of God!

1) The Power of a Resurrected Christ living in and thru the lives of his followers.

Tonight we are beginning a study in the book of Acts

A) We see the continuation of the story of Jesus!

B) If this is were today: Social media – culture – this is where we see the story go VIRAL

1) MOVES FROM small – Israel – all over the world

C) John 14 – Jesus told his disciples – you will do greater works than me –

1) We see that happen in the book of Acts

D) The message and ministry of Jesus spreads beyond Israel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

My Bible: Acts of the Apostles –

A) Some Bibles read – Acts of the Holy Spirit

B) Most accurate – “Acts of the Holy Spirit moving through ordinary people – to do extra ordinary things.”

C) It was said of this group of believers Acts 17 that they turned their world upside down.

D) That work and impact that continues to this day – 1) started with a small group of people who's lives had been impacted by a Resurrected Christ!

E) V.1-3 Introduce us to the author the audience and the intent of the book

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ²until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

A) The author of Acts was Luke, the only Gentile author in the NT

B) Historians tells us that Luke was a Syrian from Antioch .

C) From his exacting use of the Greek language, we know Luke was an intelligent man.

1) We know from Colossians 4:14 that he was a doctor.

Audience

The letter is addressed to a man by the name of Theophilus.

He is the same person that Luke wrote the gospel of Luke to:

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, ²just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, ³it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account,

most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. Luke 1:1-4

So in his first letter to Theophilus – Luke set out to give an orderly account of the Life and ministry of Jesus

A) We appreciate this about Luke – in his gospel account as well as the book of Acts –

B) Luke is into detail. – Doctor thing.

Note the phrase: V.3 Most excellent Theophilus

A) Most scholars believe that Theophilus was a high ranking Roman official –

B) which is why Luke referred to him in that way.

C) Paul the Apostle addressed the Roman Governors Felix and Festus in the same way – The most Excellent Felix Festus

So many scholars believe that Theophilus was a high ranking Roman official –

A) whom Luke served as a Physician.

B) Physicians in the Roman Empire didn't have the prestige they have today in our culture.

C) They were considered the hired servants of ELITE!

1) Some where even slaves

D) So It seems that Luke is serving in this type of capacity with this man Theophilus

But notice that there is a Change in his description of Theophilus -From his gospel – to the book of Acts

A) In the book of Acts – Luke uses the title – Most excellent Theophilus

B) But in the book of Acts – He is just Theophilus

C) Why the Change?

Opinions/ Theories :

A) Luke was no longer his servant didn't feel the need to refer to him in that way. – Not likely – still show respect

B) Theophilus became a follower of Christ – lost his position – **so he was no longer the most excellent Theophilus**

C) Again – When a president finishes his term – He is still referred to as Mr. President -
1) NOT HEY BARACK – WHAT'S UP

D) We live in a Democracy – Rome was a Monarchy

Here is the one that makes the most sense to me Theophilus – became a Christ follower –

A) Saw Luke now as his brother in Christ – and told him – just call me Theophilus

B) **Author / the Audience – the Intent**

Dr. Luke begins with a reference to his already completed work on the life of Christ, which we know as the Gospel of Luke:

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus **began both to do and teach**, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

In the gospel of Luke we have the account of the Incarnation – God becoming Man!

A) Jesus coming to the earth – His teaching His ministry – **The Ultimate work of redemption.**

B) Luke says My Gospel is the account of what Jesus **BEGAN both to do and to teach.**

C) The implication is this – In Luke's 2nd Book – In the book of Acts/ **CONTINUATION**

1) He is showing how **the work of Jesus – the resurrected Lord continues**

D) Not in His earthly – body – but – He has a new Body – HIS CHURCH.

E) **THE INCARNATION LIVES ON!**

Note this Phrase in V.3³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Luke gives us some insight into the time period after the resurrection.

A) Jesus is appearing to His disciples over the course of 40 days - **Many infallible proofs**

B) The word “seen” here in V.3 in the Greek is **optanomai**

1) From which we get our English word ophthalmologist, or eye doctor.

C) It literally means Jesus was being “**eyeballed**” by them, “stared at,” or “scrutinized him examined.

D) Which makes perfect sense – they Knew He died

1) He was buried and now – He was alive – They couldn’t take their eyes off of him -

He Ate with them – touched him – Flesh

A) Thomas his wounds

B) They saw him **again and again**, not merely once, but many times during this period

C) 1 Corinthians 15:6, there were 500 eyewitnesses to whom Jesus appeared following His Resurrection.

And he spoke with them during that time of things that pertain to the Kingdom of God.

A) Jesus was teaching his disciples things during this time pertaining to the Kingdom of God

B) The Story begins

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Introduces a new concept here – new idea – the baptism of the Holy Spirit – explain in a minute.)

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

C) Now don’t miss the significance of that question: - 1) For 40 days Jesus has been talking to them about the Kingdom of God –

D) But what are they concerned about? – The Kingdom of Israel –

1) They are wondering if Jesus is going to Make Israel great again.

E) That is the purpose of the Messiah – Restore Israel back to the glory it had under David and Solomon.

But Jesus is concerned about a bigger Kingdom and a broader place than just Israel –

A) He is thinking about the world!

B) The spread of the Kingdom of God – from generation to generation –

1) ONE HEART – ONE LIFE AT A TIME

C) SO HE RESPONDS V.7

7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Here is how this is going to happen:

A) Go into Jerusalem and wait for the Promise of the father – The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

B) **John Baptized in Water:** - Repentance and Identification

1) Water Baptism is something you do – Identify yourself as a follower of Christ

C) The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is something that Jesus does to You

D) Key Phrase in V. 8 – the Holy Spirit shall come upon You –

Now Jesus introduced the idea of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit to his disciples in John 14 –

A) The night before the crucifixion

B) He was telling them that he was going to be leaving them – but he they were not going to be alone.

1) Not orphans

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, (Another helper – another is just like me – or the same as me) that He may abide with you forever—(Introduces this helper as)¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. – John 14:16-18

Note: That Jesus says: I will not leave you orphans – I will come to you –

A) how was Jesus going to come to them – through the Person of his spirit

B) John 16:7 – Same night – same conversation
Jesus said: ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

C) In his human body Jesus could only be with them at one time in one place.

D) If Peter and John were in Galilee – and the rest of the Disciples were in Jerusalem –

1) in his physical body – Jesus couldn't be with both. – limitations

E) But His spirit could be with all of them all of the time.

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. Jn14:16-17

He dwells with You – Why – The Holy Spirit was in Jesus – Jesus was with them.

A) He dwells with you – but he shall be in You.

B) He is going to indwell you – he is going to take up residence inside of your heart

C) When did that occur

John 20 – After the Resurrection – Jesus appears to his disciples in the upper Room

A) They see him – Born again – believe – HE IS IT!

B) V.22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

C) THEY WERE INDWELT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

This is what happens to any person that places their faith in Christ

A) The Holy Spirit – comes to live in their hearts

B) Ephesians Dwell in your hearts through faith

His ministry in our hearts –

A) **Draws us into Intimacy** – Crying out Abba Father

Galatians 4:6

B) **Helper:** One called alongside to help – help us walk with God and live for Jesus – John 14:15

❖ **Teaches us God's Word** – John 14:26

❖ **Convicts of sin** John 16:8

❖ **Guide us in the truth** John 16:12

❖ **Helps us understand God's word** John 16:13

C) So don't miss this: The Disciples have the Holy Spirit in them –

1) but now Jesus tells them to do into Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them

New Word: This is what Jesus calls the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

A) Holy Spirit comes upon us to empower us – to SERVE JESUS

B) **BAPTISM IS A GOOD WORD** – Immersed

1) This is what the baptism of the Holy Spirit looks like – NOT YOU GETTING MORE OF THE HS

C) BUT IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT GETTING MORE OF YOU!

Think of it this way: You go down to the ocean - toes in – You are technically in the ocean

A) Knee deep you are in a little more – waist deep

B) Overhead – now it has you – moves you – currents are directing

C) YOU catch a wave – it's power and force and propelling you in a direction

When Saved You have the Holy Spirit in You

A) But when You are baptized with the Holy Spirit – He has you.

B) His life and His power begins to move you and work in you

Why the Promise of the Father?

A) This is something Jesus had taught them earlier - Luke 11 and Luke 24

B) Start with Luke 11 – Jesus is talking about prayer – and how God the Father likes to answer our prayers – right motives

¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

This is Key: You just need to Ask!

A) He is a good father – who wants to supply his kids with what they need to live for Him!

B) When you realize: **I need God's power to live for Jesus in this world**

1) Need God's power to serve God

C) Just Ask! -

D) Luke 24:49 – **right before the ascension** – Luke gives us the readers digest version of what we are reading in Acts “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.

He calls the Holy Spirit the Promise of the Father

A) Emphasis being – Your heavenly father is a father who keeps his promises

B) Ask for the Holy Spirit – He promises to meet that request

C) In fact Paul gives us this instruction in Ephesians 5:18 – **Don't be drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit**

Interesting contrast: Drunk with wine – Under the influence of something

A) Don't be under that influence – but allow your life to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit

B) His leading directing – empowering

C) When Paul says be filled – literally – be continually being filled

Picture: In order to walk with Jesus and make an impact upon our world

A) We need to be continually – daily being influenced and empowered by the Holy Spirit –

B) Interesting – he mentions this right before he starts talking about marriage and family!

1) **Why? Everything he says** – goes against our natural tendencies – as husband and wife

C) Wife – Your natural tendency isn't to submit

1) Men- your natural tendency isn't to nourish and cherish as own body

D) Need Power that comes from outside of ourselves to consistently be

Back to Acts 1:8 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Power to be my witnesses – Not necessarily to go witnessing – although it would certainly involve that.

A) But Power to be His witnesses - Daily – constantly –

B) Takes it from an activity – witnessing to a **LIFESTYLE – A WITNESS – FOR JESUS**

Bb) See we are always called to BE SOMETHING

1) before we are called to DO SOMETHING!

C) **BE AMBASSADOR FOR JESUS**

1) LIFE STYLE - affects the way you approach life

I live to represent SOMEONE -

D) We need the Holy Spirit's power – to do that

This is what the Apostles would learn – this is when their life and impact began to really change

A) They learned to live **lives dependent** on the Holy Spirit

B) Tonight – Baptism of the Holy Spirit

C) Close the narrative for tonight – V.9-11

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Note that last phrase: The early church lived with an expectation that Jesus could come at any moment

A) Which also led them to live with an urgency to spread the MESSAGE OF JESUS

B) We need that today!

C) He can come at any moment –

D) Urgency: Burden to be gospel carriers

We need the Power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

A) Be witnesses! - To live for Him

B) See this play out in the life of the Disciples in the coming weeks

C) We don't have to wait tonight!

D) Opportunity!