

The Ongoing Work of Jesus Christ

(Acts 1:1-5)

11 06 22 Pastor Bartlett

Acts 1:1–5 (ESV) ¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

I. **TRANSITION From JESUS (VISIBLE) to the APOSTLES - v.1-3**

NOTE: The invisible will be Jesus, but He will be ever so present. The visible will be the Holy Spirit (though unseen, His work will be seen) and the Apostles.

v.1 - Luke's emphasis of the word “**BEGAN**” implies the word “**CONTINUES**.”

Luke is about what Jesus **BEGAN**, Acts is about what He **CONTINUES** by His **SPIRIT** through His **APOSTLES**.

v.1 - Jesus' **WORK** of **REDEMPTION** is completely **FINISHED** (Luke); but now it must be **PROCLAIMED** by His **FOLLOWERS**. (Acts)

1) Jesus' **APOSTLES** were **CHOSEN**

John 15:16 (ESV) ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Acts 1:2 (ESV) ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

Acts 1:24 (ESV) ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen

Acts 9:15 (ESV) ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

- v.2 **APART** from **CHRIST** the **APOSTLES** were nothing **SPECIAL** on their **OWN**, yet they were granted special **POWER** and **AUTHORITY**.

Nothing before or since the apostles will carry the authority of what these men will say, write, and approve.

This comes not from something within them, but from the fact that they are chosen.

1 Corinthians 1:26 (ESV) ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

2) Jesus' **APOSTLES** were **CONVINCED** - v.3

v.3 - The word behind “many proofs” carries the idea of the absolute **STRONGEST** kinds of **LOGICAL** evidence.

- **APPEARED VISIBLY MANY** times (At least a dozen times)
- **SPEAKS** many times **AUDIBLY**
- **EATING BREAD** and **FISH**

- **REVEALING** His **CRUCIFIXION WOUNDS**

3) Jesus' **APOSTLES** were **COMMANDED** - v.2

Jesus is the **MOST DEMANDING** Person in history. It seems that the **SPECIFIC** commands in v.2 refer to the **GREAT COMMISSION**.

ILLUSTRATION: RELAY RACE. The baton has been handed to me. To whom have I passed it?

SOME OF HIS COMMANDS: To be born again, to repent, to listen to him, to believe him, to love him, to pray in his name, to pay their taxes, to lay up treasures in Heaven, to forgive those who wrong you, to avoid fear, anxiety, to worship God, to stay with your spouse.

v.2 - Jesus had His Own **POWER**, yet He also **MINISTERED** in the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** - (Luke 4:18)

Luke 4:18 (ESV) ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

II. An ORDER to WAIT on God's PROMISE - v.4-5

The word "**WAIT**" in v.4 illustrates the **TRANSITION** nature of the Book of Acts. It **BEGINS** with **NO** believers having the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

John 14:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 (ESV) ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 15:26 (ESV) ²⁶"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

John 16:7-14 (ESV) ⁷Nevertheless, 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 go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

v.5 - John **IMMERSED** people in water as an **OUTWARD** expression of their **INWARD REPENTANCE** from **SIN** and their **FAITH** in God. Water baptism is **SYMBOLIC** and important, but baptism in the Holy Spirit is a **GREATER ETERNAL REALITY**.

v.4 - Since the Apostles were **GALILEEANS** and by **NATURE** men of **ACTION**, it was surely **NOT** their **DESIRE** to wait in Jerusalem. Yet in **OBEDIENCE** to Jesus is where the **PROMISES** of God are **RECEIVED**.

"We would gain more **POWER** and **COURAGE** and **PEACE** if we learned to **WAIT** In the business of life, we need to **LEARN** to be **STILL**." – Barclay

"Amidst life's surging activity there must be room for a wise passiveness. Amidst all the striving there must be time to receive." Barclay