

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Church – Part 2

### I. Exposition of Chapter One (Continued).

A. Verse 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.”**

1. In verse 2, we saw that Jesus, before He was **“taken up”** (cf. Luke 24:51) gave commandments to the **“chosen”** (cf. Luke 6:13-16) apostles<sup>1</sup>**“through the Holy Spirit.”**
2. The phrase **“...after His suffering...”** is sometimes translated **“death”** or **“passion.”** Here the Greek word means; **“to suffer pain—...to be in pain.”**<sup>2</sup> and **“to suffer evil.”**<sup>3</sup>
3. So, after He suffered, He **“...presented Himself alive...”** – The word **“presented”** means; **“to stand near”** or **“exhibit”**<sup>4</sup> and Thayer’s Lexicon adds, **“metaphorically i.e to bring into one’s fellowship or intimacy.”** This then infers that these times were times of close fellowship where He would stay for prolonged periods of time before leaving. Of course, this also refers to the most important fact of Christianity – the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

**“On the fact of Christ’s resurrection hangs the whole structure of Christianity, and the Plan of Redemption and the Atonement. Without it, Christianity is but another religion founded on a dead man.”**<sup>5</sup>

4. **“...by many infallible proofs...”** – **“that which causes something to be known as verified or confirmed—‘evidence, proof, convincing proof.’... ‘that which causes one to know for sure’ or ‘... with certainty.’”**<sup>6</sup>

**“The Greek word *tekmeriois*, translated “proofs,” occurs only here in the New Testament. It refers to proof by incontrovertible evidence as contrasted with the proof claimed by a witness. Luke asserted that Jesus Christ’s resurrection was beyond dispute.”**<sup>7</sup>

5. **“...during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”** – What Jesus taught specifically during this time is not recorded.

**“The Gnostics claimed that Jesus revealed secret information to their group during the time between Passover and Pentecost. This is certainly false.”**<sup>8</sup> (NOTE: Mormons also teach that Jesus shared some **“secret teaching.”**)

a. **We know He taught of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

- 1) The word **“kingdom”** is made up of two words; **“king’s domain”**. In the Greek it means; **“royal power, kingship, dominion, rule. The territory subject to the rule of a king.”** – Thayer’s Greek- English Lexicon.
- 2) **Jesus and the Kingdom of God.**
  - a) Jesus preached the **“Gospel of the Kingdom”**. **“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues preaching the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”** Matthew 4:23.
  - b) Jesus preached the **“Kingdom of God”**. Luke 4:43. Look also at **Luke 4:18-21, 31-41; Matthew 12:25-28.**
  - c) Most of the Parables Jesus taught were about the **“kingdom of heaven”**. (NOTE: This expression is the same as **“kingdom of God”**.)
  - d) Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the Kingdom of God. **Luke 10:1-9.**
  - e) The Kingdom of God was preached as is recorded in the Book of Acts. **Acts 8:12; 19:8; 20:25.**

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<sup>1</sup>Stanley Horton adds, “The word ‘apostles’ (‘sent ones’) here may not be limited to the Twelve but include other ‘sent ones’ commissioned by Jesus...Luke 10:1)” Horton, *Acts: A Logion Press Commentary*, 33.

<sup>2</sup>Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 284.

<sup>3</sup>Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964–), 904.

<sup>4</sup>Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*, (AMG Publishers; Revised edition, 1993)

<sup>5</sup>Kevin J. Conner, *The Book of Acts* (Portland, OR: Bible Press, 1973), 10.

<sup>6</sup>Louw and Nida, 339.

<sup>7</sup>Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Acts* (<http://www.soniclight.com>: Sonic Light Publication, 2010), 9.

<sup>8</sup>Robert James Utley, *Luke the Historian: The Book of Acts*, vol. Volume 3B, 10.

3) The Gospel of the Kingdom is the good news message of: Repentance, Redemption and Restoration offered by God to all who will receive Christ.

a) Those who accept this offer become part of His eternal kingdom - **John 1:12.**

b) Those who choose to remain in their sin cannot be a part of this kingdom –  
**I Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 5:19–21.**

**B. Verses 4-5 – “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: for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”**

1. Toward the end of the forty days Jesus gave His final teaching and command.

2. Dr. Stanley Horton states; **“Luke’s Gospel condenses the forty days after the Resurrection and jumps to the final exhortation for the 120 to wait in Jerusalem until they were ‘clothed with power from on high’ (Luke 24:48-49; John 14:16; 15:26; 16:7, 13).”**

3. Horton also states; **“At that time He repeated the command, emphasizing that they were not to leave Jerusalem. This was very important. The Day of Pentecost would have had little effect if only two or three of them had remained in Jerusalem. Further, Jesus began His ministry in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14); so must they.”**<sup>10</sup>

4. Jesus states very clearly what the **“Promise of the Father”** is, it’s the experience of being **“baptized with the Holy Spirit.”** This is the same group of believers who were assembled together on the day of Jesus’ resurrection when Jesus appeared to them and **“...breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:19-22).** This passage in John was the beginning of the Church. But, here in **Acts 1:5,** Jesus makes it clear to them that there is a second experience that they needed called the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. This experience will be a key as we study through the book of Acts.

5. In the second chapter of Acts, this initial promise is fulfilled and explained (cf. **Acts 2:33, 39.**)

6. There were 50 days between Passover and Pentecost, Jesus was crucified and resurrected during the Passover and then spoke with them for 40 days. So, there was about 10 days between Jesus making this command and the fulfillment of the coming of the Promise of the Father, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

**C. Verse 6 – “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’”** - They are still thinking in the natural regarding a restoration of national Israel. Jesus said, however, that His Kingdom was not of this world. (**John 18:36-37.**)

**D. Verse 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.’”** – He doesn’t rebuke them for asking this question. He simply says that some things are still only known by the Father.

**E. Verse 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.”**

1. Several scholars consider this verse to be the **“key verse”** for this entire book. Certainly, as we’ve stated, this book is about the Christian being empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ.

2. The word **“power”** means; **“strength, power, ability. Inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth power for performing miracles. - Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon.**

3. This “power” would come as a result of the Holy Spirit coming **“upon”** them. This is another expression for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

4. Jesus states that this experience of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Spirit coming **“upon”** them would give them power to be **“witnesses.”** The word **“witnesses”** means; **“One who has information or knowledge of something, and hence, one who can give information, bring to light, or confirm something”**<sup>11</sup>

5. **“...in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”** – Horton states; **“This program for witnessing also gives us a virtual table of contents for the Book of Acts. Beginning in Jerusalem (chaps. 1 through 7) they would carry their witness through Judea and Samaria (chaps. 8 through 12) and would continue ‘to the ends of the earth’ (chaps. 13 through 28).”**<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Horton, *Acts: A Logion Press Commentary*, 34.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., 35.

<sup>11</sup>Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*

<sup>12</sup>Horton, 40-41.