

# Church – The Beginnings, Part 2

## The Foundations – The Book of Acts

Acts 1:1-8 | 10/30/2016

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

<https://NLFJl.org/ACTS>

### Links to Our Current Teaching Series and Previous Teachings:

Current Series: Jesus Reveals the Future → <https://NLFJl.org/ACTS>

#### Past Teachings:

Jesus Reveals the Future → <https://NLFJl.org/REV>

Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches → <https://NLFJl.org/7churches>

The Glorious and Victorious Church → <https://NLFJl.org/GVC>

Doctrinal Foundations: Romans → <https://NLFJl.org/Romans>

### Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus **BEGAN** both to **DO** and **TEACH**, <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup> Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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.” (compare with Luke 24:44-49 & Matt. 28:18-20)

### Timing – The Crucifixion, The Resurrection and The Coming of the Holy Spirit:

1. Each Happened as a Fulfillment of a certain Feast Day.
  - a. Crucifixion → Passover
  - b. Burial → Feast of Unleavened Bread (1<sup>st</sup> day, the High Holy after Passover)
  - c. Resurrection → Feast Day of First Fruits (see 1 Cor. 15:20ff)
  - d. The Coming of the Holy Spirit → Pentecost (Shavuot) – Acts 2 (50 days after First Fruits)

2. “It is Not for you to know Times and Seasons ...” (what? wait a minute)

Timing ... what God wants us to know, is what matters or should matter to us most.

(verses 4-8) → But what those disciples were to know is the time of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

They were commanded to wait there in Jerusalem for this Event, a Unique, One-Time Event.

Acts 1:4-5 -- **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; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**

→ The “Promise of the Father” is the promised “coming of the Holy Spirit” ...

This is not some 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Blessing AFTER Salvation ... but it is the Holy Spirit Bringing Salvation.

The Salvation that Christ purchased for us on the Cross (through His Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection) would be applied to those Disciples, as long as they waited there in Jerusalem...

**John 7:37-39 -- On the last day, that great day of the feast [feast of Tabernacles], Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of Living Water.” <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him WOULD RECEIVE; for the Holy Spirit was NOT yet given, because Jesus was NOT yet glorified.**

So, when was Jesus Glorified?

When He **Rose** from the Dead?

– OR –

When He **Ascended** to Heaven and **Sat** at the Right Hand of God the Father?

### 3. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you... (vs. 8)

So, in the context of that passage, is Jesus talking to all Christians or just to His disciples, at that time? (hint: read the context of verses 1-8 – who are “they” “them” ... who is the “you” Jesus is talking to – “you” is plural - such as in you-all or all of you)

Will a non-Christian who does not have God’s Spirit dwelling within him or her want to go out and be a witness for Christ? Will a non-Christian who does not have God’s Spirit dwelling within him or her have the ability (power and authority) to speak the Gospel and God’s Word to the lost?

Only genuine, Born Again, Christians will want to and have the authority and power to do so.

Their life, testimony, and the Gospel is the Witness/Testimony of Christ’s power to Transform sinners to saints ... that is what is proclaimed to the lost. Why would the lost want to do that? They are lost sinners. 1 Cor. 12:3 – “... **no one** can say that **Jesus is LORD** except **by the Holy Spirit.**”

Thus, God’s Holy Spirit came upon those first disciples, bringing the New Covenant to Earth, because of Christ’s finished work of redemption and it was APPLIED **via** the Holy Spirit.

(ref.: Jer. 31:31-33; Ezek. 36:25-27)

**Purpose:** Saved, Born Again, **so that** they would be **His Witnesses** to the Lost world around them.

### 4. Today, when does the Holy Spirit come into a person?

We do not find the answer to this question in the book of Acts, but we do find the answer in the Apostles’ Doctrine (in the New Testament books of Romans thru Jude – the “Epistles”)

<sup>13</sup> In Him [in Christ] you also **trusted**, **AFTER** you heard **the Word of Truth**, the **Gospel** of your **Salvation**; in whom also, **having BELIEVED**, you were **sealed** with **the Holy Spirit of promise**, <sup>14</sup> who is the **guarantee** of our inheritance **until** the redemption of the **purchased** possession, to the praise of His glory. **Ephesians 1:13-14**

**The Holy Spirit of Promise → The Promise of the Father ...**

Lost sinners must **Hear the Word of Truth**, the Gospel. That is why we **must** Proclaim the Gospel to lost sinners. The Holy Spirit only comes into a lost sinner’s life **AFTER** that lost sinner Repents and Trusts in full surrender to Christ **according to the Word of Truth, the Gospel of our Salvation (the sinner’s response to the Gospel)**. When that person has **surrendered** to Christ, that is when Christ comes into the life of that person **via** the presence of the Holy Spirit (i.e.: the **indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit**). This **fulfills the Promise that Christ made in John 7:37-39**. Although it is true that the Convicting Power of the Holy Spirit works on lost sinners prior to their salvation (John 14:15-26; 15:26-27; 16:5-15), He does not come into their lives until **AFTER** they surrender in full repentance and trust to Christ.

All Genuine Christians are **Born Again – Born from Above, Born of the Spirit** (see John 3:3-21)

This is the same term (usage) as being **“Baptized in the Spirit”**:

**1 Corinthians 12:13 -- For by one Spirit we were ALL baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.**

This is what Jesus was referring to when He mentioned “... but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Not just some Christians, but **All →** when we are **Born Again**.

### 5. The Power of Christ via the Holy Spirit:

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but **according to His mercy He saved us, THROUGH the WASHING of REGENERATION and RENEWING of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He Poured Out Upon us ABUNDANTLY through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7**

When **the Holy Spirit comes** into Surrendered, Repentant people who have Trusted Christ for salvation – **He:**

- a. **Brings Salvation** – He Applies **Christ’s Purchased Salvation** to them, on the inside
- b. **Washes them – Cleans them Thoroughly – Holiness – He makes them Holy – internally**
- c. **Regenerates and Renews Them → Causes them to be Born Again → New Creations**
- d. **Fills them (Poured Out Upon Us Abundantly ... ) – not just a sprinkle – but the Ocean**
- e. **Causes them to be Joint Heirs with Christ and the rest of the Body of Christ**  
**This means that they, too, can Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, for His Glory with other believers, together (no being a Lone Ranger)**

## **Luke 24:44-53** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> Then He [Jesus] said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

<sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ [the Messiah] to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission [i.e.: forgiveness] of sins should be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Behold, I **SEND** the **Promise of My Father upon you**; but tarry [wait] in the city of Jerusalem **UNTIL** you are endued with **POWER** from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and **carried up into heaven** [ ← this is the **Ascension of Christ to Heaven** – compare with Acts 1:9-11 & Matt. 28:18-20]. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped Him, and **returned to Jerusalem with great joy**, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.