

Acts 1:1-5

In 2 senses, Acts is the 2nd chapter of a continued story...

1. 2nd volume which Luke had sent to Theophilus

In the 1st volume, Luke's gospel, he told the story of Jesus' life upon earth.

Now he goes on to tell the story of the Christian Church.

2. 2nd volume of a story which has no end.

Luke's gospel was only the story of what Jesus began to do and teach.

3 Different Kinds of Immortality—Jesus

Definition—Immortality=imperishable; unending existence; not mortal

1. Immortality of Fame

Jesus' name will never be forgotten.

2. Immortality of Influence

Jesus won an immortality of influence for His effect upon the world and the life of men cannot die.

3. Immortality of Presence and Power

Jesus is still alive and active. He is not the one who was; He is the one who is.

1 Cor. 15:49-58

The Book of Acts tells of the Church that carries on the life of Christ.

The Church was empowered to carry on the life of Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Comforter = Latin (fortis) means brave.....the Comforter fills men with courage and strength.

It is very difficult to see any difference in the work of the Spirit and the work of the Risen

Christ....the coming of the Spirit is the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus. “Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” Matt. 28:20

- Wait on the coming of the Holy Spirit...We would gain more power, more courage and peace if we learned to wait.**

Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God.”

Isaiah 40:31 “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.”

Amidst life's surging activity there must be time to receive.



Acts 1:6-8

*Center of Jesus' message was the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14)
Jesus meant one thing by the kingdom and those who listened to Him meant another.*

- *The people (Jews)....the kingdom meant "world sovereignty...they took it on political terms." They really believed and still do that "God will break directly into human history and establish world sovereignty of which they have dreamed about....since Abraham convinced them that they were God's chosen people and that God would establish their land."*

Note: God's love for the "apple of His eye" has never diminished. The Jews are God's chosen people. Praise God...however, we gentiles have been adopted into the Kingdom. Remember, God never lies. When He said that He would never leave them...He meant it. The covenant He made with His people was unconditional. This is very important for the Church to understand today.

- *Jesus' conception of the kingdom of God... "Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."meaning a society upon earth where God's will would be as perfectly done as it is in heaven...A kingdom founded on love and not on power.*

To attain to Jesus conception of the kingdom of God, men (people) needed the Holy Spirit.

Luke has said...twice...to wait for the coming of the spirit. This did not and does not mean that the spirit did not exist at that time....

A power can exist before men experience or take it at some given moment.....

i.e. Atomic power---always existed...men did not invent it...they just tapped into it at some given time.

Therefore, the God head is eternally Father, Son and Holy Spirit...But, there came to men a special time when they experienced to the full that power which had always been present.

The Power of the Spirit was going to make them Christian Witnesses.

Operating in an ever-extending series of concentric circles...from your neighborhoods to your cities, to your country, and finally to the ends of the earth.

3 Things to Note about the Christian Witness:

1. *A witness is a person who says I know this is true.....a witness who does not question or say "I think so"; he says "I know."*
2. *A real witness is not of words only...but of deeds.....the witness of a man's works which is irresistible.*
3. *A real witness means to be loyal no matter the cost.....In Greek, the word for witness and the word for martyr is the same (martus).*

Are we ready to stand....no matter what...and declare "Jesus is Lord" and that He is the only way to the Father....God?

The Spirit is ready....is the flesh too weak?

Christianity is not a one-time experience....It must be a life-time experience!

The Main Ingredients of Effective Witnessing

- **The Seeker**
- **The Servant(s)**
- **The Savior**
- **The Spirit**

Seeker—Theophilus

It might be anyone...the grocery store clerk, the one who carries your groceries, the beauty technician, the service station attendant....

Servant—Luke, Paul, Stephen, Peter

Hopefully this is you, this is the person who has a testimony, who has been changed by the grace of a mighty God and the love of a Son who wants to have brothers and sisters present when His kingdom is established.

Savior—Only one...Precious Jesus

Willing to live in the confines of a world that was rebellious and self-seeking, pitiful and hateful, greedy and sinful. Willing to die for the sake of mankind. Leaving his followers with the promise of heaven and the help of another who would give them the power to overcome.

Spirit—The Holy Spirit

God's spirit and Jesus' power...God's love and Jesus' promise to not leave the seekers and the servants alone. He was to be with them "always..even unto the end of the world."

The Spirit is willing....is the servant prepared and ready?