

Approximately Expository 35 minutes



Power, Promise, and Purpose

An Expository Style Message Through Acts Chapter 1:

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the mighty name of Jesus. We thank You for Your Word, which is alive and active. Lord, as we open Acts chapter 1, would You open our hearts. Teach us about Your power. Teach us about Your promises. Teach us about our purpose here on earth. Holy Spirit, fill this place and fill our lives. Draw anyone who does not know You into saving faith today. We give You this time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Historical Setting:

The Book of Acts was written by Luke. This is the same Luke who wrote the Gospel of Luke. He was a physician by trade, a careful historian, and a companion of the apostle Paul.

Acts is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke. If the Gospel tells us what Jesus **began** to do and teach, Acts tells us what Jesus continues to do.... through the Holy Spirit and through His Church.



The setting is around A.D. 30-33. Jesus has been crucified, buried, and resurrected. For forty days He has appeared to His disciples. Rome rules the world. Israel is under Roman occupation. The disciples are confused but hopeful. They know Jesus rose from the dead but they don't fully understand what comes next.

Acts chapter 1 is the bridge between resurrection and revival.

It is the waiting room before Pentecost.



It is the moment before the Church is born.



1. The Risen Lord Speaks (Acts 1:1-5):

  **Acts 1:1-5(NIV) *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized***

with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”



Luke begins:

  **“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven...”** (vv.1-2)

Notice that phrase:   **“...began to do and to teach.....”** (v.1)

Jesus is not finished. The Gospel was just the beginning.

Verse 3 says:

  **“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive....”** (v.3)

Christianity is not based on myth.

 It is based on resurrection reality.

Jesus appeared over **forty days**.


- He ate with them.
- He spoke with them.
- He taught them about the **kingdom of God**.

Then He tells them something critical:



  **“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised...”** (v.4)

 Wait.

The disciples want to move.
Jesus says wait.



 Brothers and Sisters, sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is wait for God's timing.

He continues:

  **“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”** (v.5)

The **promise of power** was coming.



2. The Question and the Commission (Acts 1:6-8):

  **Acts 1:6-8 (NIV)** ⁶ ***Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”***

⁷ ***He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

Let us break this down.....

The disciples ask:



  **“....Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”**
(v.6)

They were still thinking **politically**.
Jesus redirects them **spiritually**.

“....It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.” (v.7)

 Translation: Trust God with the timeline.

Then comes one of the most powerful verses in the New Testament:

  **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”** (v.8)

- Power.
- Purpose.
- Plan.

The word for power is *dunamis* This is Greek where we get the word dynamite.

👉 God did not call the church to survive.

! He called us to **explode** with spiritual impact.

Notice the progression:

- Jerusalem... it started local.
- Judea.... Bigger area - regional.
- Samaria.... Going outside the walls – Going beyond cultural barriers.
- Ends of the earth... expanding - global.

The gospel moves outward.

😞 And Brothers and Sisters,..... today, it is still moving.

God is very active and very good!!!



3. The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11):

📖 + **Acts 1:9-11**(NIV)⁹ **After he said this, he was taken up before their very**

eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”



Verse 9:

  **“He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.”** (v.9)

Jesus physically ascends into heaven.

The disciples are staring into the sky.

Then **two angels** say:

  **“Men of Galilee... why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus... will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”** (v.11)

! What a promise.

He came once.

He's coming again.


 The ascension means:


- The work of redemption is finished.
- Jesus reigns at the Father's right hand.
- He will return visibly and physically.

! This gives us hope.

4. The Prayer Meeting (Acts 1:12-14):

God's Word....

  **Acts 1:12-14**(NIV) **12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the**

hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew  Bar-THAW-luh-may and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The disciples return to Jerusalem.

Verse 14 says:

  **“They all joined together constantly in prayer...”** (v.14)

 Before power came, prayer came.



Before Pentecost came, they kept praying faithfully.

👉 If we want revival in our homes, our churches, and our communities, it must start with prayer.


- They were unified.
- They were obedient.
- They were expecting.

And they were waiting.

5. Replacing Judas (Acts 1:15-26):

  **Acts 1:15-26(NIV)** ¹⁵ **In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)** ¹⁶ **and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those**

who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama,  uh-KEL-duh-muh that is, Field of Blood.)




²⁰ “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms:

““May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and,

““May another take his place of leadership.’



²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living

among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas  bar-SAB-us (also known as Justus) and Matthias  muh-THY-us. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias;  muh-THY-us so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Peter stands up among about 120 believers.

He addresses the **betrayal of Judas** and quotes Psalm 109:8:


  **“...May another take his place of leadership.”** (Psalm 109:8NIV)

- They nominate two men.
- They pray.
- They cast lots.


In the Bible, “casting lots” was the use of small marked objects placed in a pouch or container, then drawn out, with the people **trusting God to guide the result.**

The people understood it as a way of placing the outcome in God’s hands, not merely random chance. This was done with prayer.

In Acts chapter 1, after Judas betrayed Jesus and died, the remaining eleven


apostles cast lots to choose his replacement. The lot fell to Matthias,  **muh-THY-us** and he was numbered with the twelve apostles.

Matthias  **muh-THY-us** is chosen.

 Some debate whether this was premature but the key point is this:

 The mission continues.

Betrayal did not stop God's plan.
Failure did not cancel God's purpose.

 And Brothers and Sisters nothing happening in our world today is outside God's sovereign control.

Lessons for Us Today:

1. Jesus Is Alive:

This is not religion.

👉 This is resurrection power.

2. We Need the Holy Spirit:

Programs cannot save.

Talent cannot transform.

👉 We need power from on high.

3. Our Mission Is Clear:

! Be witnesses.

Where we live.

Where we work.

Where God sends us.

4. Jesus Is Coming Again, very soon!

The ascension guarantees the return.

! Live ready.

Salvation Invitation:

Before we close, I want to speak to anyone listening who has never been born again.

Acts chapter 1 points to Jesus ... crucified, risen, ascended, returning.

🤔 You may know about Him.

👉 But do you know Him?

The same Jesus who ascended will return.

🤔 The question is ... are you ready?

The Bible says in...



Romans 10:9(NIV):

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

! Salvation is not earned.



It is received.

If you are ready to surrender your life to Jesus, you can pray right now:

Let us Pray....

“Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins.... I believe You rose from the dead.... Forgive me.... Come into my life.... Be my Lord and Savior..... Fill me with Your Holy Spirit.... I give You my life.... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Listen....”If” you prayed that prayer and meant it with **faith believing in what Jesus did for you....** I say welcome to the family of God.

Let us Pray....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for Acts chapter 1. Thank You that Jesus is alive. Thank You that You promised power. Thank You that You are coming again.

Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Make us bold witnesses in our local towns and cities, and to the ends of the earth. Use our lives for Your glory.

**Strengthen Your Church.
Save the lost.
Prepare us for Your return.**

We ask this in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, our King, our Lord, our saviour.

Amen.

