

Studies in Acts

Study one

Key verse: Acts 1:8.

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."



Big Idea: As believers we have been made into Christ's witnesses by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Kick Off

Think of these terms... *petrol head, computer nerd, book worm, fitness freak, couch potato*. How do people get these titles, and if you were to meet any one of them what would you expect to see in their life and practice?

STUDY

The book of Acts is a sequel to the gospel of Luke. Both are written by Luke the Doctor and both are addressed to the same person... Theophilus, whose name means God lover. Theophilus may well have been a wealthy Patron who sponsored Luke to research and write. Luke tell us that his gospel, *was all about what Jesus began to do and to teach* (Acts 1:1). And as we study through Acts it should come clear to us that Acts is actually, *all about what Jesus would continue to do and teach*. This action and teaching however would happen through his Spirit empowered witnesses and will continue to happen until Christ returns.

Read Acts 1:1-11.

1. In the 40 day period between Jesus' resurrection and ascension, what two things did he impress upon his Apostles in v3.

2. Can you think of any of the 'convincing proofs' Jesus gave to them regarding his resurrection?

3. What are the Apostles commanded to do in vv4,5 and what is the connection between John's baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit?

4. Read John 1:32-34 what made Jesus recognisable to John as the Son of God?

5. Read Acts 1:8 what will make Jesus' disciples globally recognisable?

6. Is witnessing more about who we are than what we do? Explain.

7. In v6 the disciples ask Jesus a question which reveals that they are confused about Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God. They are wondering if an *immediate*, restoration of the *Davidic kingdom* to *national Israel* was about to take place. How does Jesus correct their wrong thinking and expand it in vv7,8?

8. Jesus is taken up before into heaven v9. Where has he gone, (Daniel 7:13-14) and when will he come back, Acts 1: 11, 7?

Read Acts 1:12- 26

9. What does Peter want to do and why?

10. The word 'Apostle' simply means sent one. The 12 Apostles were 'sent ones of Jesus Christ'. Who chose them v2? Is Jesus capable of choosing a replacement for Judas v3? How does Peter go about appointing a replacement Apostle for Jesus?

11. How many 'Apostles of Jesus Christ' is there, Rev 21: 14? Who was the replacement Apostle Jesus himself chose Gal 1:1.

Peter was right about the need for witnesses to Jesus Christ and right about the Scripture teaching regarding a replacement for the apostle Judas. What he got wrong was the means of appointing that replacement. It was not his call to attempt to find the replacement for Jesus. Peter instead of waiting for the Holy Spirit was acting without him and as a result we have the Matthias mistake to think about.

THINK AND APPLY

If witnessing is who we have been made by the power of the Holy Spirit, what sort of people should we be?

How does a *Christ-witness* view things like: money, leisure, work, family, neighbours and possessions?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



For next week
Read
Acts 2:1-13