



# The Faith to Believe Acts 1

**BETTER**

# They Believed in the Risen Christ

(Acts 1:1–11)

## Acts 1:1–11 (NKJV)

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 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,

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.

**4** 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;

**5** for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

**6** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**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.

**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.”

**9** Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

**10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

**11** who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- The Book of Acts is the account of the work of the Holy Spirit *in* and *through* the church.
- The Gospel of Luke records what Jesus “began both to do and teach” in His human body, and the Book of Acts tells us what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through His spiritual body, the church.

- Even today, congregations can learn much about church life and ministry from this book, and this even includes the business meetings!
- In this chapter, we see the believers taking care of “unfinished business” and getting ready for Pentecost. What they said and did reveals to us the faith of the church. In what did they really believe?

# The Reality Of His Resurrection

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(v. 3a)

- Some of the believers may have had their doubts forty days before (*Mark 16:9–14*), but there could be no question now that Jesus had indeed been raised from the dead.
- We know that when Jesus met His disciples, He invited them to touch His body, and He even ate before them (*Luke 24:38–43*).
- Whatever proofs He gave, they were convincing.

- Faith in His resurrection was important to the church because their own spiritual power depended on it.
- Also, the message of the Gospel involves the truth of the Resurrection:

## **Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)**

**9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.



**If Jesus were dead, the church would be speechless.**

## **1 Corinthians 15:1–8 (NKJV)**

**1** Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

**2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

**3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

**4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

**6** After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

**7** After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

**8** Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

- Finally, the official Jewish position was that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body from the tomb, and the believers had to be able to refute this as they witnessed to the nation.

# Matthew 28:11–15 (NKJV)

**11** Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

**12** When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

**13** saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’”

**14** And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.”

**15** So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

**These believers were chosen to be special witnesses of Christ's resurrection, and that was the emphasis in their ministry.**

## **Acts 1:22 (NKJV)**

beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

These believers were chosen to be special witnesses of Christ's resurrection, and that was the emphasis in their ministry.

## **Acts 2:32 (NKJV)**

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

## **Acts 3:15 (NKJV)**

and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

# The Coming Of His Kingdom

(v. 3b)

- This refers to the reign of God over the hearts and lives of those who have trusted Him.

## **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

## **Romans 14:17 (NKJV)**

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

# 1 John 3:1–9 (NKJV)

**1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

**2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

**3** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

**4** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.



**5** And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

**6** Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

**7** Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

**8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

**9** Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

**When you read the four Gospels, you discover that the Apostles had a strongly political view of the kingdom and were especially concerned about their own positions and privileges.**

- Being loyal Jews, they longed for the defeat of their enemies and the final establishment of the glorious kingdom under the rule of King Messiah.
- They did not realize that there must first be a spiritual change in the hearts of the people (*see Luke 1:67–79*).

**Jesus did not rebuke them when they “kept asking” about the future Jewish kingdom (Acts 1:7).**

## **Acts 1:7 (NKJV)**

And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

- Jesus did not rebuke them when they “kept asking” about the future Jews kingdom after all, He had opened their minds to understand the Scriptures:

**Jesus did not rebuke them when they “kept asking” about the future Jewish kingdom (Acts 1:7).**

## **Luke 24:44 (NKJV)**

Then He 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.”

- But God has not revealed His timetable to us and it is futile for us to speculate.

- The important thing is not to be curious about the future but to be busy in the present, sharing the message of God's spiritual kingdom.
- This is another emphasis in the Book of Acts:

## **Acts 8:12 (NKJV)**

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

## **Acts 14:22 (NKJV)**

strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

## **Acts 20:25 (NKJV)**

“And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.

## **Acts 28:23 (NKJV)**

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

# **Acts 28:31 (NKJV)**

preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.



## **Acts 5:30–32 (NKJV)**

**30** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

**31** Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

**32** And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

- The people in Jerusalem knew that Jesus of Nazareth had been crucified, but they did not know that He had been raised from the dead.
- By their words, their walk, and their mighty works, the believers told the world that Jesus was alive.
- This was “the sign of Jonah” that Jesus had promised to the nation (*Matt. 12:38–41*)—His death, burial, and resurrection.

# The Power Of His Holy Spirit

(vv. 4–8)

- John the Baptist had announced a future baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; and Acts 11:16*), and now that prophecy would be fulfilled.

## Matthew 3:11 (NKJV)

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

# The Power Of His Holy Spirit

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(vv. 4–8)

## Mark 1:8 (NKJV)

I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Jesus had also promised the  
coming of the Spirit.**

## **John 14:16–18 (NKJV)**

**16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

**17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

**18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

## **John 14:26 (NKJV)**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

## **John 15:26–27 (NKJV)**

**26** “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

**27** And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

## **John 16:7–15 (NKJV)**

**7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

**8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

**9** of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

**10** of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

**11** of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**12** “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

**13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

**14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

**15** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.



It would be an endowment of power for the disciples so that they would be able to serve the Lord and accomplish His will.

## **Luke 24:49 (NKJV)**

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

- John had spoken about “the Holy Spirit and fire,” but Jesus said nothing about fire. Why?

# Acts 1:8 Is A Key Verse

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## Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

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.”

- To begin with, it explains that the power of the church comes from the Holy Spirit and not from man.

# Acts 1:8 Is A Key Verse

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## Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.

**God's people experienced repeated fillings of the Spirit as they faced new opportunities and obstacles.**

## **Acts 2:4 (NKJV)**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## **Acts 4:8 (NKJV)**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,

**God's people experienced repeated fillings of the Spirit as they faced new opportunities and obstacles.**

Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

## **Acts 4:31 (NKJV)**

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

## **Acts 9:17 (NKJV)**

And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

## **Acts 13:9 (NKJV)**

Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

- Ordinary people were able to do extraordinary things because the Spirit of God was at work in their lives.
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not a luxury; it is an absolute necessity.

# “Witness” Is A Key Word

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- “***Witness***” is a key word in the Book of Acts and is used twenty-nine times as either a verb or a noun.
- A witness is somebody who tells what he has seen and heard.



# “Witness” Is A Key Word

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## **Acts 4:19–20 (NKJV)**

**19** But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

**20** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

# “Witness” Is A Key Word

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- When you are on the witness stand in court, the judge is not interested in your ideas or opinions; he only wants to hear what you know.
- Our English word *martyr* comes from the Greek word translated “witness,” and many of God’s people have sealed their witness by laying down their lives.

- We hear a great deal these days about “soul winning,” and the emphasis is a good one.
- However, while some of God’s people have a calling to evangelism (*Eph. 4:11*).

## **Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV)**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

- All of God's people are expected to be witnesses and tell the lost about the Saviour.
- Not every Christian can bring a sinner to the place of faith and decision (*though most of us could do better*), but every Christian can bear faithful witness to the Saviour.

## **Proverbs 14:25 (NKJV)**

**A true witness delivers souls**, But a deceitful witness speaks lies.

# Acts 1:8 also gives us a general outline of the Book of Acts as it describes the geographical spread of the Gospel:

- from Jerusalem (*Acts Chapters 1–7*)
- to Judea and Samaria (*Acts Chapters 8–9*),
- and then to the Gentiles and to the ends of the earth (*Acts Chapters 10–28*).

**Acts 1:8 also gives us a general outline of the Book of Acts as it describes the geographical spread of the Gospel:**

- No matter where we live, as Christians we should begin our witness at home and then extend it “into all the world.”
- As Dr. Oswald J. Smith used to say, “The light that shines the farthest will shine the brightest at home.”