

## Acts 1

Written by Luke the doctor, same man who wrote the gospel.

We know that he was a physician ([Colossians 4:14](#)).

- We know that he was a Gentile (from his name).
- We know that he was a devoted companion of Paul (from the text of Acts, and [Colossians 4:14](#), [Philemon 24](#), and [2 Timothy 4:11](#)).

To Theophilus (lover of God). Probably real person but also symbolic.

Most probably written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome since it doesn't mention the outcome, so in the early sixties AD.

We see the birth of Christianity, the Church .The expansion from Jerusalem to Rome is a remarkable story. “Humanly speaking, [Christianity] had nothing going for it. It had no money, no proven leaders, no technological tools for propagating the gospel. And it faced enormous obstacles. It was utterly new. It taught truths that were incredible to the unregenerate world. It was the subject to the most intense hatreds and persecutions.” (Boice)

v.1 interesting what Jesus began to do and teach

v.2 commandments given to apostles- through the Holy Spirit

- **Matthew 28:18-20**- *Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age"*

- **Mk.16:15-18**-*And He said to them, " Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe. In My Name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues, they will take up serpents and if they drink anything deadly it will by no means hurt them, they will lay hands on the sick and the will recover."*

- **John 13:34-35**- *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another.-*

- **John 15:9 through John 15:17 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup>*“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide*

*in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*  
<sup>11</sup> "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, that you love one another.

-whom He had chosen- our calling, our role, is not random

v.3 presented himself alive

to Mary Magdalene- John 20:14, Mark 16:9

to women returning from tomb- Matt 28:9,10

to Peter later in the day- Luke 24:34, I Cor 15:5

to disciples on Emmaus road- Luke 24:13-33

to apostles with Thomas absent- Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-24

" " " " present- John 20:26-29

to disciple by Lake of Tiberias- John 21:1-23

to 500 plus believers at one time - I Cor 15:6

to James- I Cor 15:7

to the 11- Matt 28:16-20; Mk 16:14-20; Luke 24:33-52; Acts 1:3-12

to Paul- Acts 9:3-6; Acts 22:17-21; Acts 23:11; I Cor 15:18

to Stephen- Acts 7:55

to John on Patmos- Rev 1:10-19

v.4-8 - baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the same as regeneration- the apostles have the Holy Spirit in them- see John 20:22

- it is the empowering of His Spirit not just a power but the only power

- Not an influence, not an offshoot or byproduct but the Power

- it is not your gift or talent

power- there is nothing too hard for Him to do- *Luke 1:37,*

He can do far more than we think- *Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*

The power of the Holy Spirit is not for flash and entertainment It is to used for boldness in proclaiming the gospel. Also includes power to heal those who are sick and afflicted.- Luke 5:17

v.6&7 although we are to be aware of the times, our focus **is not to be so concerned about when but about what we should be doing** until He comes- our focus is not to be dates and times but to spread the gospel

- Talk about what the eclipse means, blood moons, upcoming Feast of Tabernacles on September 20

v.8 to be effective it must be done in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit- not relying on programs and gimmicks

Jerusalem- where we are- things going on in the bulletin; women's study, prayer meetings, youth group

Judea- out a little farther- home groups, homeless ministry, nursing homes, Freedom School, Churches that we have planted Calvary Chapel of Riverbend, of Belleville, Festus, Winfield, Columbia; those we have come alongside Washington, Granite City, Branson,

Samaria- Intensive Care Ministry (inductive Bible studies) , Dupree, Samaritan's Purse, Rapid Response Chaplains

End of the earth- Pratts in Ukraine, Gourleys in Tbilisi,Georgia, Pam Markey in Austria, Hope for the Percuted, in past India and other mission outreaches

### **How? Power of the Holy Spirit**

*John 7:37-39 (NKJV) 37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 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.*

***Luke 11:9 through Luke 11:13 (NKJV)***

*<sup>9</sup>"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>If a son asks for <sup>£</sup>bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a*

*scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”*