

1. Christ Promised the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Today, we are beginning a new series of topics on the book of Acts. We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand the vision that Christ has for the world. This will include helping our children to understand how the early church developed and the lessons we can learn from that development that we can apply in our churches today. We will see that the Lord teaches many principles about the way that He worked in the early church to help the church in its development.

Acts 1:1-3 says, “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 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, 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.” Here, we are reminded that this is the second book that Luke wrote to Theophilus. In Luke 1:3-4, Luke wrote, “It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.” Here, we see that Luke wrote the book of Luke so that Theophilus would have an accurate written copy of the things that he had been taught about the life and ministry of Christ.

The name “Theophilus” means *friend of God*. Luke had written Theophilus the book of Luke to give him a clear record of both the things that Christ did and the things that Christ taught. The book of Luke covered the time from the promise that Christ would be born until the time when He was taken to heaven forty days after the resurrection. The book of Luke includes two of the commandments that Christ gave the disciples after His resurrection. Luke 24:46-48 says, “Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.’” Christ told His disciples that the message of repentance and remission of sins was to be preached in His name to all nations. The disciples were to start to share this message in the city of Jerusalem and then begin to spread that message from there to all nations.

The word “repentance” means *a change of mind*. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 says, “For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” Here, we see that repentance means a change of mind which causes a person to turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God. The word “remission” means *to forgive, to pardon and to release from bondage*. Ephesians 1:7 says, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Here, we see that Christ paid the penalty that made it possible for Him to forgive our sin, to pardon us and to release us from the bondage to sin because of His grace.

The second command is given in Luke 24:49 where we read, “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.” The word “tarry” means *to sit or settle down*. The disciples were to pray and wait until Christ sent the Holy Spirit to give them power to minister. If the disciples would have witnessed in their own

strength, they would have seen little lasting results because Christ said in John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” In the same way, we want to help our children understand that they will do nothing in their own strength but their lives will bear much fruit as they yield to the Holy Spirit.

We are also reminded that Christ showed Himself after His resurrection and gave the disciples many infallible proofs of His resurrection. The word “infallible” means *clear proof or evidence that cannot be rejected*. Christ was seen at least ten times during that forty-day period. He also helped the disciples to understand what the Old Testament taught about His death and resurrection. Luke 24:44-45 says, “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.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” During that time, Christ also helped the disciples to understand many things about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:4-7 goes on to say, “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; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.’” We saw in an earlier paragraph that Luke also recorded this thought as he concluded the book of Luke. Christ made it very clear that the disciples were to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Here, we see that Christ also made it clear that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not the same as the baptism with water. A few years earlier, John had baptized with water those who received his message. However, the baptism with the Holy Spirit mentioned in this passage marked the beginning of the church. In recalling this event, Peter said in Acts 11:15-17, “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” Here, Peter said the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples at the beginning.

Once the Holy Spirit came on the Christians at the beginning of the church, we see that each Christian was now baptized with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. The Gentile believers at the house of Cornelius were baptized with the Holy Spirit at the moment that they believed the message about the death and resurrection of Christ. In fact, they were baptized with the Holy Spirit before Peter could even complete his message. Romans 8:9 tells us, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” Here, we see that if we do not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us we are not yet Christians.

As a result, at the moment we repent and place our faith in the resurrection of Christ, we receive

the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter promised that the gift of the Holy Spirit would be given at the moment that the people repented. Acts 2:38 says, “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” This means that every person who has become a Christian has received the gift of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit also means that we have the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives when we are yielding to the Holy Spirit. When our sins have been confessed, our lives are full of the Holy Spirit. That is the thing that gives us the power to share the Word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31 says, “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.” Many times, Christians are afraid to share the Word with those who are not Christians, because the Christians are depending on their own strength instead of yielding to the Holy Spirit.

As the disciples were gathered together with Christ, they asked Christ if He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel at that time. The answer that Christ gave is very important to help our children understand. Christ told the disciples that they did not need to know the plan that God has for Israel in the future. That future for Israel is under the authority of the Father and so it was not to be the concern of the disciples.

Christ reminded the disciples that He had a ministry for them and those who would follow and that was to be the important thing that they understood. Acts 1:8 says, “‘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.’” Here, we see that Christ pointed out the fact that the Holy Spirit would give the disciples power to be witnesses unto Him. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” Here, we see that when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

That means that the temple of the Holy Spirit goes wherever Christians go. This is an important lesson to help every Christian understand because it means we are representing the Lord wherever we go and by whatever we do. As a result, we want to help our physical children and also our spiritual children learn to glorify God both by what they do and what they say. Everything we do or say in our lives reflects on the Holy Spirit because our bodies are His temple. That is why we want to show our children, by our example, how to bring glory to God by all that we do or say. May the Lord richly bless you as you provide your children with an example to follow.