

IN &
OUT®

Acts

PART 1

JESUS' WITNESSES
EMPOWERED BY
HIS SPIRIT
(CHAPTERS 1–12)

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Power

Power to be what God wants you to be!
Power to do what God wants you to do!
It's yours for the believing!

As we prepare this study on the book of Acts, it seems this is “the hour”—the time to learn from the apostles what it means to be His witnesses, Christ-followers in the midst of a “crooked and perverse generation.”

If you are aware of what is transpiring in the nations, you can sense the increasing conflict between the darkness and light. And if you know the whole counsel of God, you should be keenly aware that the day of the Lord is drawing near. If ever there was a need to understand and do the will of God, it is now!

May you discover for yourself, through this study, what it means to be His faithful witness even to the remotest part of the earth. And may you hear His “Well done!”

TAKING IT IN

The secret to handling God's Word accurately is to observe, observe, observe His Word—to hang on His every God-breathed word. As Luke brought his Gospel to a conclusion, he wrote that Jesus “opened their [the eleven apostles and those with them] minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45). May this be your prayer as you begin.

Since the book of Acts is an historical account, we are going to study it chapter by chapter, allowing the story to unfold before us.

1. In the Appendix of this workbook, you'll find what we call “Observation Worksheets” for the first twelve chapters of Acts. They are just that—worksheets to be observed and marked in a way that will help you discover for yourself exactly what God says chapter by chapter in Acts, information He wants you to know, understand, and live by.

Read Acts 1 and mark the following, using a distinctive color or a combination of colors and/or a colored symbol for each. On the back cover of

your workbook, you'll see marking suggestions for some words frequently used in the Bible. Below and throughout this workbook we've indicated each word from this list with an asterisk.

- a. *Jesus**
 - b. *the Holy Spirit**
 - c. *Peter, the apostles* (Mark these the same way.)
 - d. geographical locations,* such as *Jerusalem* or the *upper room*. See these locations on the "Map of Israel" and the "Map of Jerusalem" in the Appendix.
 - e. references to "when,"* such as *then, at this time*.
2. Now, apart from the human author of Acts, whose name we are not told in Acts 1, and Theophilus, to whom he's writing, you've marked the main characters mentioned in Acts 1. So what do you do with these markings besides have a lovely colored page? You want to learn what God tells you about them. So list the *main* things the text tells you about the people you marked, using the chart at the end of the lesson.
 3. Note the main theme or event(s) of chapter 1 on the "Acts at a Glance" chart found in the Appendix. This chart is a great way to summarize the main points of the book. We'll complete the chart as we move through Acts.

Now aren't you awed by all that you have observed on your own simply by observing the text! Savor the truths . . . think about them . . . talk to the Father about them. Thank Him for His Word—this, Beloved, is the truth. Truth that sanctifies you—sets you apart, makes you more like Jesus, and keeps you from the evil one (John 17:14-18). And we are just beginning!

4. Let's look at what the Father promised and Jesus spoke about in Acts 1. We'll begin with Luke and then go to the Gospel of John and follow Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit. Look up the passages and record what you learn from them.
 - a. Luke 24:44-53

b. Luke 3:15-17

c. John 7:37-39

d. John 14:1-3, 16-17, 26

e. John 15:26-27

f. John 16:7-14

5. Read Acts 1:1-11 again. (It's good to read aloud.) Then to review, answer the following questions:
- a. Why were they not to leave Jerusalem?
 - b. What were they going to receive?
 - c. When was this going to happen—what would be the timing?
 - d. How would it happen?
 - e. What would they become?
 - f. Where?

6. Did you notice the words “power” and “witnesses” in verse 8?

Power is *dúnamis*, meaning “inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature.”¹ “All the words derived from the stem *dúna-* have the meaning of being able, capable.”²

Witness is *mártus*, “one who testifies”³; “one who declares facts directly known to himself.”⁴

In light of these definitions, think about what Jesus is saying to the apostles in Acts 1:8. Mark the word *witnesses* here.

7. What is the order of events in verse 9?

8. In Acts 1:12-26 what was Peter’s reason for leading the brethren to replace Judas?
- a. What does the text tell you?

¹ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001). G1411.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G1411.

³ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 417.

⁴ Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000). 254.

b. What were the qualifications for his replacement?

LIVING
IT OUT

1. So what happens between Jesus' ascension to heaven and His return to earth? What do you learn from Acts 1:8? Don't miss the who, the when, the where, the what—and the how.
2. We suggest that you read Acts 1:8 aloud every day three times a day until you have it memorized. Where are the apostles to be witnesses? See if you can list them from memory.

Well done! Think of what you have learned for yourself—of what you know that you know because of the time and careful attention you've given to the words of Almighty God—the Sovereign Ruler of the universe.

JESUS	THE APOSTLES
THE HOLY SPIRIT	PETER

ACTS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THE** first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,
- 2 until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.
 - 3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
 - 4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of from Me;
 - 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
 - 6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”
 - 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;
 - 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
 - 9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
 - 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.
 - 11 They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”
 - 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

- 13 When they had entered *the city*, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son* of James.
- 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the women*, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- 15 At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,
- 16 “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.
- 17 “For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry.”
- 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.
- 19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)
- 20 “For it is written in the book of Psalms,
‘LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE,
AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT’;
and,
‘LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.’
- 21 “Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—
- 22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection.”
- 23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.
- 24 And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen
- 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”
- 26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

ACTS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Segment Divisions			
			Chapter Themes
Author:			1
			2
Date:			3
			4
Purpose:			5
			6
Key Words:			7
			8
			9
			10
			11
			12





