

A Church on a Mission
Part 5: The Great Empowerment Acts 1:1-11

The Great Commandment—The Great Commission—The Great Calling

The Christian Life is Impossible!
To fulfill The Mission of the Church is Impossible!

A Great Promise: Luke 24:44-49, John 16:7

Acts-Basics

- 5th book in the new testament
- A sequel to the Gospel of Luke
- A history of the New testament Church
- A history of the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church
- Author: Luke (Gentile historian & physician)
- Theophilus: a wealthy new Christian who funded this research project
- Theme verse: Acts 1:8
- Based on many eye witness testimonies (including Luke's)
- Accurate historical detail
- Literary excellence

Background: After Jesus rose from the dead, he remained on earth and ministered to his disciples for 40 days then ascended into heaven

Acts—Basic Outline based on Acts 1:8

- Acts 1-7: the Holy Spirit's power and witnessing in Jerusalem
- Acts 8-12: the Holy Spirit's power and witnessing in Judea & Samaria
- Acts 13-28: the Holy Spirit's power and witnessing to the ends of the earth

Acts 1:1-11

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.”

- **But:**
- **You:**
- **Receive:**
- **Power:**
- **Comes on you:**
- **Witnesses:**
- **Jerusalem; Judea; Samaria; to the ends of the earth**

The Holy Spirit

- Third person of the Trinity
- The same nature, character & perfections as God the Father & God the Son (coequals)
- Present throughout the bible—Spirit of God, Eternal Spirit; Spirit of Glory, Spirit of Life, Spirit of Holiness, Spirit of Wisdom, Spirit of Truth, The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit—Primary Purposes

- To Bring Glory to Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- To apply Jesus Christ’s work of redemption

Salvation: (see 1 Peter 1:2): God the Father planned it--Jesus the Son carried it out

The Holy Spirit applies it

The Holy Spirit--Ministry

1. Turns people’s hearts toward God by convicting them of sin that leads to repentance & faith (calls)
2. Regenerates a genuine believer (new creation)
3. Sanctifies a genuine believer over his or her life (goal: Christlikeness)
4. Opens the mind & hearts of believers to help understand the truth of God’s Word (illumination)
5. Guides, protects, strengthens, convicts, enables encourages & empowers

6. Develops spiritual fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness & self-control
7. Provides spiritual gifts to every Christian

Be a Witness

- a witness does not share his or her opinions, ideas or notions but only what was seen, heard & experienced
- Sharing The Truth about Jesus Christ and the Salvation God has brought
- Be = in your life—word & deed

Acts 2: 1-4a; Ephesians 1:13b-14---The Holy Spirit Comes!

Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

I Can't--God Can--I'll Let Him