

Acts: Word and Witness

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Ambassadors Sunday Morning Community

September 17, 2017

Acts 1:1-5 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2** until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Luke 24:36-49 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” **37** But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. **38** And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41** And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate before them. **44** Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47** and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important for Christians to have the Bible be credible?
2. In what ways do we see the credibility or certainty of the scriptures get compromised in our culture?
3. Can the church be a faithful witness if the scriptures are compromised? Why?

4. What is the mission of God and the mission of the church? How have you been empowered to extend the Kingdom where you live? What obstacles do you face? Be specific.
5. How does the Holy Spirit give you power today? When does the Holy Spirit show up in your life?

Galatians 5:

- 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.
- 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.
- 7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?
- 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you.
- 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.
- 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is.
- 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.
- 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!
- 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.
- 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
- 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,
- 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.