

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Acts 1:9-26) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Moving On Up”**

~ INTRO ~

NOW... TODAY...

- As we continue looking at (Acts 1)...
 - We need to remember a very important point.
 - The church... did NOT exist yet!

AND AT THIS MOMENT... THERE'S 120-DISCIPLES...

- Waiting in Jerusalem for the next steps...
 - While they continued worshipping God.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED...

- SO followers of Christ had NO direction & NO power...
 - AND they could NOT continue the ministry of Jesus.

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:

- Read (Acts 1:9-12) NLT

HERE'S THREE THINGS WE CAN OBSERVE:

#1 – THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST: (vv.9-12)

AS WE READ THRU THE BIBLE...

- We discover much about Jerusalem and the work of God.
 - Here we see the Mount of Olives, which sits about a ½ mile from...
 - The temple mount in Jerusalem.

AND THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT THINGS...

- We see the Lord do on the Mount of Olives.

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FOUR EXAMPLES:

- 1) (Ezk. 11:22-23) NLT
 - The Lord’s glory left the temple and up Mt. of Olives.
- 2) (Acts 1:11-12) NLT
 - Jesus ascended into heaven from the Mt. of Olives
- 3) (Zech. 14:4) NLT
 - Jesus will return at His second coming to the Mt. of Olives...
 - Before returning His glory to Jerusalem.
- 4) (Ezk. 43:4) NLT
 - The Spirit of the Lord returns thru the east gate to the temple...
 - In Jerusalem to rule during His millennial kingdom...
 - And the church is with Him (Rev. 20:4) NLT

IT’S EXCITING TO KNOW...

- That just as promised... Jesus will return in physical / bodily form for us!

NOW...

- The disciples were told to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.
 - AND notice how they waited?
 - Location = Jerusalem (Acts 1:12) NLT
 - Emotions = Great joy (Luke 24:52) NLT
 - Actions = Praising God (Luke 24:53) NLT

WHAT DO WE DO WHILE WE WAIT FOR JESUS?

- We’re to work!
 - To busy ourselves with the mission God gave the church.
 - Were to invest the resources we’ve been entrusted with.
 - Flip to (Luke 19:11-29) NLT

Here’s the lesson:

- Learning to trust God’s plan while we wait for His return.
 - At the birth of the Church the disciples were together praying.

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Harry Ironside, When God is going to do some great thing, He moves the hearts of people to pray. He stirs them up to pray in view of that which He is about to do, so that they might be prepared for it.¹

Here’s why it matters:

- Truth without power accomplishes little in a world dominated by evil.²

THE FIRST DISCIPLES SAW JESUS GO INTO HEAVEN...

- And they were told to wait for the Holy Spirit to come...
 - Before they got to work – they needed power!

#2 – CONTINUING TOGETHER: (vv.13-20)

OK...

- In these next few verses we see unity with the disciples!
 - There’s a CORE group (vv.13-14) NLT
 - And a LARGER gathering (v.15) NLT

TODAY WE ENCOURAGE IT THIS WAY...

- Large group involvement...
 - With small group accountability.

BUT... HERE’S WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN.

- Six times in the book of (Acts) we see an important trait of the church.
 - They were **UNIFIED** – together / in prayer / in worship...
 - And in decisions.
 - They were advancing the *Mission!!!*

*This is what we need to put into practice in this fellowship.

- 1) (Acts 1:14) NLT
- 2) (Acts 2:1) NLT
- 3) (Acts 2:46) NLT
- 4) (Acts 4:24) NLT
- 5) (Acts 5:12) NLT
- 6) (Acts 15:25) NKJV!!!

¹ Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Acts (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 5) (pp. 44-45). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

² Ibid., (p.39).

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#3 – DECISIONS WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT: (vv.21-26)

IN THESE FINAL VERSES...

- We get a glimpse of church-leadership before Holy Spirit empowering.³

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING... INTO OUR LIVES...

- We know there's danger for Christian's...
 - To make life decisions without the leading, help, & peace of God.

HUMAN DECISIONS ARE...

- a) Based on self-confidence [human plans & abilities] (James 4:13-17)
- b) Acted out in my timing [forcing open doors w/ determination] (Rev. 3:7)
- c) Subject to frequent change [double-mindedness] (James 1:6-8)

LET'S CONSIDER THE O.T. LIFE OF SAUL...

- In (1 Sam. 13:8-14) **NKJV!!!**
 - Saul sought his own will over Gods will (v.9)
 - Saul was living by sight & not faith (v.11)
 - Saul lived by superstitious feelings NOT God's truth (v.12)

SIMPLE STEPS FOR BASIC CHRISTIAN DECISION MAKING:

- Desire (Phil. 2:13) NLT
- Open door (Rev. 3:7) NLT *the faithful church in revival*
- Peace (Phil. 4:7) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT TO REMIND YOU OF THE BIG PICTURE!

- God has offered you forgiveness of your sins in Jesus.
- God is for you all the days of your life in Christ.
- And God has promised to be with you thru your storms.

SO WE CAN BOLDLY SAY...

- The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid!

³ Ibid., (p.56).

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CHURCH...

- Don't be afraid to live out your faith...
 - And honor God in your daily living – Amen!

~ **LET'S PRAY** ~