



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Road after the Cross – The Holy Spirit Promised

MAY 4, 2011

Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, Ohio 43023 / tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / capitolcom.org/ohio

Acts 1:1-8

1The 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.”

The first account composed (v1) by Luke was the Gospel of Luke, where he documented the ministry of Jesus, His death, burial and resurrection. In the first account Luke shared what Jesus began to do and teach. In this composition, **Luke now shares what Jesus continues to do through the Holy Spirit.**

When originally written, Acts may not have had a title. It was given the title “Acts” in the early Greek manuscripts and later many added the “of the Apostles”. Additionally, many have referred to this book as “The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles’ The original Greek word for ‘Acts’ is *‘praxeis’*, describing the achievements of great men. These great men in Acts include among others Peter (chapters 1-12) and Paul (chapters 13-28).

Jesus is now speaking to His followers and continuing to prepare them for what will come.

Why would Jesus appear to these people at this time?

He did this to keep His promise (v1-3), to provide direction (v 4, 5 & 8) and to give a promise of the Holy Spirit (v 5 & 8).

Jesus promised that He would see them after the resurrection. Scripture describes at least 10 encounters, over forty days, of Jesus appearing to His followers (550+) after His resurrection and prior to His ascension.

Jesus commands/directs them not to leave Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Spirit and then directs them to be His “witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth.” The Greek for ‘witness’ is *‘martyrs’*, martyr, one who dies for their faith. (V8)

Jesus provides the promise of power through the Holy Spirit being in them. (V8).

While the disciples said earlier that they would not deny Jesus and would die for Him, they all scattered and denied Him. Jesus tells them through the Holy Spirit they will have the power to be His witnesses, they will no longer scatter or deny Him, but will be ones that will die for Him.

For Your Consideration

- Are you allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to work through your life?
- Are you a witness for Christ?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44