

Preparation → Implementation

- Examples

Cooking a meal → Eating it

- How do we sometimes get it wrong?
 - No preparation (or poor preparation)
 - Wrong preparation
 - No implementation (or poor implementation)
 - Wrong implementation
- God's plan:
 - What's the task? And how can we prepared for it?

Part 2 Acts 1:1-14

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Luke and Acts: 1 book in 2 volumes

- Begins with the birth of Jesus until His death and resurrection **Luke**
- Then describes the ministry of His apostles after Jesus' departure **Acts**
- Written primarily for Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians and non-Christians

Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so **that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.**

Acts 1:1-14

- 1-2: Part 1: What Jesus ***began*** to do and to teach
- 3: • Disciples described Jesus: “He was a prophet,
4-5: **powerful in word and deed** before God and all
6-8: the people.” *Luke 24:19*
- 9-11: • Jesus taught through the Holy Spirit
- 12-14: • Until Jesus’ ascension to heaven
- Part 2: What Jesus ***continued*** to do in the church
 - The climax of Jesus’ work is the foundation of the church’s work

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Acts 1:1-14

- 1-2: Part 1: What Jesus ***began*** to do and to teach
- 3: Resurrection to Ascension: proofs and teaching
- 4-5: • About the Kingdom of God
- 6-8: • “Paul **proclaimed the kingdom of God and**
9-11: **taught about the Lord Jesus Christ**—with all
12-14: boldness and without hindrance!” *Acts 28:31*
- Apostles had unique authority of Jesus for the teaching and practice of the church
 - Now expressed in the Bible

Acts 1:1-14

- 1-2: Part 1: What Jesus ***began*** to do and to teach
 3: Resurrection to Ascension: proofs and teaching
 4-5: Wait for God's promise: baptism of the Holy Spirit
 6-8: • Jesus told His disciples, "I am going to send you what
 9-11: my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you
 12-14: have been **clothed with power from on high.**"
Luke 24:49

Acts 1:1-14

- 1-2: Part 1: What Jesus ***began*** to do and to teach
 3: Resurrection to Ascension: proofs and teaching
 4-5: Wait for power: baptism of the Holy Spirit
 6-8: Focus on bearing witness to the ends of the earth
 9-11: • Power from God through the Holy Spirit
 12-14: • "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened
 in order that you may know ... **his incomparably
 great power for us** who believe. That power is the
 same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised
 Christ from the dead..." *Ephesians 1:18-21*
- Structure of Acts: 2-7; 8-12; 13-28

Acts 1:1-14

1-2: Part 1: What Jesus ***began*** to do and to teach

3: Resurrection to Ascension: proofs and teaching

4-5: Wait for power: baptism of the Holy Spirit

6-8: Focus on witnessing to the ends of the earth

9-11: Jesus ascends to heaven. Disciples begin active waiting

12-14: • Rather than waiting for Jesus' return...

- Be watching for & depending upon the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:1-14

1-2: Part 1: What Jesus ***began*** to do and to teach

3: Resurrection to Ascension: proofs and teaching

4-5: Wait for power: baptism of the Holy Spirit

6-8: Focus on witnessing to the ends of the earth

9-11: Jesus' ascension, and disciples begin active waiting

12-14: Active waiting

- United: "with one accord"
 - In community
- Devoted in prayer

The Big Idea

After Jesus' total victory over sin and death

*resurrection & ascension
the Son-of-God-in-power*

Jesus commands His church

to bear witness to His works and His words

where we are now

and to the ends of the earth

by the power of the Holy Spirit

until He returns

Being prepared:

“Baptized” with the Holy Spirit

While education, experience, knowledge, connections, resources, more people, ... are all good

Jesus didn't tell them to wait for those things



Some notes...

- The “**Church age**”
 - From Jesus’ ascension until His return (like bookends)
 - The Holy Spirit is the active presence of God with His people
 - The primary function of God’s people now:
 - “**Bearing witness** to Jesus to the ends of the earth”
 - “**Show and tell**” the reality and glory of the Gospel
 - Human solutions to human problems **never** fully succeed
 - “But God, being rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ...”

Some notes...

- **Baptized in** the Holy Spirit once
 - When we become Christians (“born again/from above”)
 - The power of entering this new life is the Holy Spirit
 - “For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” *1 Corinthians 12:30*

Some notes...

- **Baptized in** the Holy Spirit once
- **Filled with** the Holy Spirit over and over...
 - Experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives
 - To resist sin, to become more like Jesus, to bear witness to Jesus
 - Generally: empowering of human efforts and actions, rather than instead from human efforts and actions
 - “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs **from the Spirit.**” *Ephesians 5:18-19*

debauchery = excessive indulgence, no self control

Application

- **Do the task: bearing witness to Jesus**
 - God could appear directly to each person, yet generally He uses human witnesses instead
 - “**Show and tell**” the reality and glory of the Gospel:
 - What Jesus said, did, and does
 - Responsibility of us all together, to which we individually contribute

Application

- **Do the task: bearing witness to Jesus**
- **By the power of the Holy Spirit**
 - The fundamental preparation for God’s assignment to us: **baptized in the Holy Spirit**
 - Based on Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, giving of the Spirit
 - Through genuine conversion, faith, and obedience
 - **Prayer:** devoted, together
 - **Active dependence**
 - Seeing the unseen: God’s power, love, justice, mercy
 - Living according to the unseen
 - For God’s purpose: bear witness to Jesus

Application

- **Do the task: bearing witness to Jesus**
- **By the power of the Holy Spirit**
- **Everywhere we go**
 - Every part of the life we are living
 - “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” *Colossians 3:23*

Application

- **Do the task: bearing witness to Jesus**
- **By the power of the Holy Spirit**
- **Everywhere we go**
- **And going everywhere**
 - Especially *where* witnessing is weak
 - Geography
 - People
 - Society
 - “It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known.” *Romans 15:20*

The Big Idea

After Jesus' total victory over sin and death

resurrection & ascension
the Son-of-God-in-power

Jesus commands His church

to bear witness to His works and His words

where we are now

and to the ends of the earth

by the power of the Holy Spirit

until He returns

Preparation → Implementation

- **Preparation: genuine rebirth in Christ**
 - Jesus life, death, resurrection, and ascension
 - Jesus gives the Holy Spirit
 - So we pray and depend upon the Holy Spirit's power
- **Implementation: show and tell the Gospel**
 - The church bears witness to Jesus' words and works
 - Through our words and works
 - For His glory in the lives of all peoples