



The fantastic claim that Jesus resurrected from the dead is the cornerstone of Christianity. If *untrue*, the Christian's hope goes down in flames. But if *true*, we can trust our **living** Lord with our past, present, & future!

The Mission

Acts 1:8 (NET) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem [1:1-6:7], and in all Judea and Samaria [6:8-9:31], and to the farthest parts of the earth. [9:32-28:31]"

They were to...**take the Gospel to the planet in the power of the Spirit.**

Acts is the unfinished story. 21st century followers of Jesus are to continue the work that Jesus & His 1st century followers began. If not, the message of Jesus will end with our generation & we will stand before God to give an account about that one day.

When you give an account, what will you have to say about furthering His kingdom?

How have you used time, talents, & treasure to invest in what is eternal - PEOPLE - who will 1) forever live forgiven & free or 2) live forever condemned & imprisoned?

The 1st century task is OUR task, too.

Take the Gospel to the Planet in the power of the Spirit.

The Ascension

Acts 1:9–11 (NET) ⁹ After he had said this, while they were watching, **he was lifted up** and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ As they were still staring into the sky while he was going, suddenly two men in white clothing stood near them ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven **will come back** in the same way you saw him go into heaven.”

1. Jesus is Enthroned.

Philippians 2:9–11 (NET) ⁹ As a result [of Jesus' obedience to die] God exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow** —in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

His work on earth has been accomplished and now Jesus returns to his place of glory with God the Father (see Jesus' prayer in Jn. 17:5). Early Christians pointed to the ascension of Jesus as the fulfillment of Ps. 110:1.¹

Psalms 110:1 (NET) Here is the LORD'S [yhw] proclamation to my lord [’ā dōn]: “**Sit down at my right hand** until I make your enemies your footstool!”

¹ Craig S. Keener, Acts: An Exegetical Commentary & 2. Introduction and 1:1–14:28, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012–2013), 720.

The writer of Hebrews notes this fulfillment in Jesus as well.

Hebrews 10:11–13 (NET)

¹¹ And every priest stands day after day serving and offering the same sacrifices again and again—sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, **he sat down at the right hand of God**, ¹³ where he is now waiting *until his enemies are made a footstool for his feet*.

- 2. The Spirit is coming.** The disciples of Jesus will not be left alone to make disciples of all nations. Remember v. 8? They were to wait a few days and THEN the message of Jesus would be amplified across the planet in the power of the Spirit.
- 3. Jesus will return.** First came as the Sacrificial Servant. Next He will return as the Conquering King, to judge all mankind for all eternity. Every person will bow their knee & proclaim Jesus is Lord of all. UNTIL THAT TIME, the disciples of Jesus are to warn of God's wrath and offer God's peace; **Take the Gospel to the planet in the power of the Spirit.**

When Jesus returns will find us FAITHFUL?

BIG QUESTION: Am I Living like He's Returning?

Anything you would be ashamed of - a sin to turn from? Any relationships you should have made right? Have you been seeking Jesus first & sharing Him with others?

According to Acts 1:15 we find out that there were only about 120 disciples of Jesus who met together in Jerusalem. Look at some of the ways to there living like Jesus was returning.

Luke's Gospel shows us what happened **in public**.

Luke 24:50–53 (NET) ⁵⁰ Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ Now during the blessing he departed and was **taken up into heaven**.⁵² So **they worshiped him** and returned to Jerusalem **with great joy**,⁵³ and were continually in the temple courts blessing God.

They were in the very courts where Jesus had taught, close to the place where Jesus was tried & sentenced to death. Yet they had **great joy**, because they **KNEW** that Jesus was alive!

Luke's 2nd volume, **ACTS**, shows us what went on **in private, behind closed doors**.

Acts 1:12-14 (NET) ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives (which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away). ¹³ When they had entered Jerusalem, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James were there.¹⁴ All these **continued together in prayer with one mind**, together with the women, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Some in this crew had believed for a long time - the apostles & Mary. Others, like the **brothers** of Jesus, likely did not. Paul specifically mentions that the resurrected Jesus appeared to James, one of those brothers (1 Cor. 15:7).

They had all seen the resurrected Jesus & now the exalted Jesus. Now they wait & pray with **one mind**. Prayer unites us together - helps us to see that WE are not in control & together trust the ONE who is. Who are YOU praying with?

Read Acts 1:15-28 on your own.

Peter stands up & makes a case that they needed to fill the spot of the betrayer - Judas Iscariot.

Acts 1:21-22 (NET) ²¹ Thus one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time the Lord Jesus associated with us, ²² beginning from his baptism by John until the day he was taken up from us—**one of these must become a witness of his resurrection together with us.**

The apostles and other disciples had lived with Jesus. They had watched Him heal, heard Him teach, & trusted Him as their Living Lord. For the rest of their lives they would be living like Jesus was returning.

Are YOU?

FEET2FAITH

1. Make time to pray with another believer. Ask God to save souls & use you to share Jesus.
2. Read all of Acts 1:15-2:41. Write down your questions & insights and share with another.

Am I Living like He's Returning?