

Acts Overview – How can we walk in the Kingdom?

After 40 days of the resurrected Jesus teaching about the Kingdom, the disciples ask this question just prior to Jesus's final ascension.

Act 1:6-8 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

What are the implications to us as born-again believers today? When is His Kingdom restored?

Holy Spirit Comes on Pentecost

Act 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Why is it important that they were all with one accord and in one place? What is the importance for us today? Empowered by the Holy Spirit in His fullness, Peter preached and 5,000 accepted Christ in one day.

Act 2:46-47 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

They did church daily wherever they were, they broke bread and went house to house. How is this different from our church paradigm today?

Themes that are evident in Acts.

1. Expect persecution and trials for your faith (Slandered, falsely accused, in prison, Stoned, beaten, and killed)
2. No Fear (the apostles and the early church operated with no fear, in spite of constant threats)
 - a. Jesus even opened the Heavens to receive Stephen (Acts 7:55-56)
 - b. After being stoned and assumed dead, Paul rises up again and goes back into the city (Acts 14:19-20)
 - c. Peter demands he be let out publicly not secretly since he was beaten publicly (Acts 16:35-40)
 - d. The Lord told Paul that He has many people in this city (Corinth – Acts 18:9-11)
 - e. Paul wants the Lord's Will not his knowing Chains await him in Jerusalem (Acts 21:8-14)
 - f. Shipwrecks (Acts 27:39-44), poisons snakes (Acts 28:1-6)
3. If you operate in God's will, man cannot overcome you. (Acts 5:38-39)
 - a. The False accusations are unfounded; yet the corrupt rulers keep him chains. (Acts 24)
 - b. He preaches to Kings and Governors in chains (Acts 26)
4. Your heart and motives and operating in truth are essential:
 - a. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-11)
 - b. Simon the sorcerer – Acts 8:18-24 – Wanted the Holy Spirit for power and profit.
5. Go where the Lord sends you and be obedient for that is where His blessings are.
 - a. Desert – Phillip meets the Ethiopian Acts 8:26-39
 - b. Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9)
 - c. Ananias agrees to accept and heal Saul (Acts 9:10-19)
 - d. Peter goes to the Gentiles (Cornelius – Acts 10:24-48)

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- e. The Lord ministered to Paul wherever he was providing fellowship, encouragement, lodging, visitors, opportunities to preach the Kingdom, heal, and teach. (Acts 28:03-31)
6. Legalism brings division and kills the effectiveness and Unity of the Church
 - a. James Decree regarding the new gentiles (Acts 15:28-29)
 - b. Issues arose like dining together, circumcision, ceremonial washing etc.

Where do we let legalism divide the church today?

7. Study Scriptures daily – Be a Berean! Acts 17:11
8. Your greatest ministry maybe in the darkest places (Corinth, Athens, Rome, etc.)
9. Gospel leads to change and will upset the people who cling to this world and don't accept Jesus.
 - a. Silver smiths riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:21-41)
 - b. Jews that rejected Jesus, continually pursued Paul, yet he never failed to preach in the synagogue to the Jews first, then the Gentiles.
10. Paul preached the Kingdom of God and the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:25-27)
11. Paul relied on the Holy Spirit and his wits:
 - a. Used is Roman Citizenship (Acts 22:22-29,
 - b. He used the division among the Pharisees and the Sadducees to be acquitted (Acts 23:1-10)
 - c. The Lord uses a boy to reveal the murderous plot of Jesus against Paul (Acts 23:11-22)
12. Be a watchman on the wall! Speak-up about impending disaster. (Acts 27:9-12)
13. Walking in Kingdom authority takes a personal relationship and the in-dwelling power of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19:14-18)
 - b. His kingdom is everlasting and available today:

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Luke 1:33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The Parable of the Mustard Seed - 31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

The Parable of the Leaven 33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

1. **Matthew 3:2** and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
2. **Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
3. **Matthew 10:7** And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
4. **Mark 1:15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

John 10:7-10 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.