

"The Foundation for the Apostles"

Part 1

Introduction: For the past two weeks we have been looking at an introduction to the book of Acts and as we did, we considered the change in the lives of the Apostles. They went from hiding in fear to standing in the face of the enemy willing to die for the message of the Gospel. This was the result of several things:

1. **Their understand of the Old Testament.**
2. **The resurrection.**
3. **The Holy Spirit coming upon them.**

We will see the mighty change in them when we get to Acts 2. But here in Acts 1 we see some very interesting points. It is in chapter 1 that we see the foundation upon which the Apostles will stand.

Let us remember that Jesus chose the Apostles, and they were just ordinary men. So how do you get the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the world with twelve ordinary men? How do you get the Gospel to every nation when you are starting with ordinary men who have no great influence upon their society, and they have little courage to take on the critics? The answer to these questions is found in Acts 1.

What we are about to look at has much application in the church today. We could ask, "How do you send ordinary Christian people out into the work force and expect them reach their lost co-workers with the Gospel?" The answers are right before us.

1. **Jesus taught them the Word of God.**

Notice Acts 1:1

Before the Apostles were sent out into the world with the greatest message ever given, they spent several years under the teaching of Jesus Christ. They did not grasp all they heard but over time the Holy Spirit would bring to their mind what they heard and would give them the understanding which they needed.

John 14:25-26

²⁵ *These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.*

²⁶ *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

Application:

This is a fundamental Truth, but it is important for us to be reminded that as we go into the world, we need to know the Bible.

Ephesians 6:13-17

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

We have one offensive weapon to use in the battle and it is the Word of God. We must know our weapon and know how to use it. It is our means of fighting the enemy. But it also does more than defeat the enemy.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Here we see that it is the Word of God that gives us stability in the storms of life. But there is more.

Psalm 119:104-105

¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Here we see two blessings that we get from knowing the Word. We get understanding and the Word provides light in this world of darkness.

2. Jesus showed Himself alive to Apostles on several occasions.

Notice Acts 1:3

We looked at this thought last week. Jesus showed Himself to only believers after the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8

⁵ *And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

⁶ *After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

⁷ *After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.*

⁸ *And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

He did not show Himself to unbelievers because it was their responsibility to be saved through the message of the Gospel by grace through FAITH. The Apostles needed to know He was alive to energize them for the mission ahead.

Application:

One of the most important doctrines we should know is the Doctrine of the Resurrection. All of our hope hangs upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

The entire Christian faith rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

➤ **Because He lives, we too shall live.**

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

²⁰ *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

²¹ *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

- Because He lives, we will never be alone.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- Because He lives, we are forever secure.

Hebrews 7:25-26

²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

3. Jesus empowered them.

Notice Acts 1:4-8

We see what Luke is referring to here in his Gospel.

Luke 24:49

⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

The Apostles were commanded to wait at Jerusalem and the command seems to imply that when the Apostles began to understand what had happened was part of the plan of God, they were ready to carry the Gospel wherever they could. But if they would have gone immediately after the resurrection it would have been in their own power and they would have been defeated.

Application:

The Apostles would be empowered with the Holy Spirit for the mission before them. This was something that would be completely different than what was seen in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit would come upon an individual to accomplish a specific task and then he would leave. People of the Old Testament were not permanently indwelt with the Spirit like the Apostles and like us today. An exception to this was David.

1 Samuel 16:13

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

As we work our way through the book of Acts, we shall see that it is the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Apostles that will change the world. Now there is a caution that must be heeded as we go through Acts. Many have made the mistake of focusing too much on the Spirit. Let us keep in mind the mission of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13-14

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The mission and ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ, so we need keep in mind that as we study this letter that Jesus is to be exalted and not the Spirit.

Getting to the application; the very same power that worked in the Apostles works in us also.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

As we serve the Lord, we are to serve Him in the power of the Spirit. Anything that is done apart from the Holy Spirit is done in the power of the flesh and the motive of the flesh is self-glorification. Therefore, deeds done in the flesh/in our own power, have no eternal value. We are to serve the Lord with our spiritual gifts and do so in the power of the Holy Spirit. We all have the Holy Spirit, and He has given to us our spiritual gifts and He empowers us to exercise the gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

⁴ Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

⁶ And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

⁷ *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

⁸ *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

⁹ *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*

¹⁰ *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

¹¹ *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

Conclusion:

The Apostle's foundation was built upon three solid stones:

- a. Learning the Word
- b. Understanding the resurrection
- c. Empowered by the Spirit

This same foundation for service is ours to claim for our lives. If God's people would tap into what God has made available how much different would our world be?