

### **“Waiting to Act”**

#### **Acts 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: **“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**

<sup>6</sup> So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: **“It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

1. Acts is the second volume of a two books series, beginning with the Gospel of Luke. Acts is a continuation of what Jesus has begun through the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave his disciples a mission to make disciples of all nations but yet commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait. Why is it so important for the disciples to wait before going out to fulfill their mission? Do you find it hard to wait for things to happen? What are some things in your life that is worth waiting for?
2. What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit? When the God’s Holy Spirit comes to the disciples, Acts 2:4 said that they were *filled* with the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18, the apostle Paul also tells the believers to be (continuously) filled with the Spirit. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how can we be continuously filled?
3. Acts 1:4-5, Jesus answered his disciples “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the

ends of the earth.” Have you ever been empowered by Holy Spirit for a particular task or purpose?

4. v. 14 What did the disciples do while they wait for the Holy Spirit to come? How much time do we spend on prayer and to wait for the Holy Spirit before we make plans and act?
5. During this Covid time our church has an enormous task ahead of us. How do we continue to be a witness for Jesus in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth? Sometime we may be tempted to feel that we are too busy to pray, but given the mission that God has given you for your life, can you afford not to?