

III. WE MUST BE EMPOWERED IN ORDER TO BE JESUS' WITNESSES (Acts 1-28)

The Holy Spirit is not some state of **consciousness** or an impersonal **force**. When we believe or accept the risen Lord Jesus as our personal Savior, He is *the* promise and empowering **Gift** that we receive by faith. Its only because Jesus lives, we live and can share God's **promise** of eternal life to all who call on Jesus' name. God the Spirit indwells us in order to *fill* (Ephesians 5:18, meaning to control and enable) us to do all what God wants us to do. He is the **missionary** Spirit of missions. The **movement** of the church in Acts and story of how this Gospel undoubtedly is God's power unto **salvation** to all who believe! The Spirit's baptism is placed in the church to allow us to be His witnesses!

Will You Believe And Find Power?

God's power is in Jesus' promise of a person - the Holy Spirit who **transforms** lives and enables us to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. However, we need to receive the Spirit as God's perfect gift by placing our **faith** in Christ! Have you done this? If like the early Christians we believe in what Jesus did for us, we too will experience the Spirit's power to do God's good and perfect will. As the Father sent the Son, Jesus **sends** us with his empowering Spirit (John 20:21). Let's trust and **obey** for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus.

40 DAYS WITH JESUS

Believe & Find Power

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. After His resurrection Jesus spent **forty** days on the earth (Acts 1:3). During this time He made **ten** appearances.

Jesus' Post-resurrection Appearances

- To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9-11).
- To the women returning from the tomb (Matthew 28:8-10).
- To Peter later in the day (Luke 24:33-34; I Corinthians 15:5).
- To the disciples going to Emmaus in the evening (Luke 24:13-32).
- To the apostles except Thomas (John 20:19-24; Luke 24:35-45).
- To the apostles a week later with Thomas present (John 20:24-29; Mark 16:14).
- In Galilee to the seven by the Lakes of Tiberias (John 21:1-25).
- In Galilee on a mountain to the apostles and over 500 believers (I Corinthians 15:6; Matthew 28:16-20).
- At Jerusalem and Bethany again to James (I Corinthians 15:7).
- At Olivet and the ascension (Acts 1:3-12; Luke 24:50-53).

B. In this series you will discover what Jesus did on earth for 40 days after the Resurrection and what you will find when you believe in Jesus.

Mar 27	Believe & Find Life
Apr 3	Believe & Find Hope
Apr 10	Believe & Find Peace
Apr 17	Believe & Find Confidence
Apr 24	Believe & Find Forgiveness
TODAY	Believe & Find Power

C. **TEXT:** Acts 1:1-11 (Pew Bible/Pg.1069/New Testament)

HOW TO BELIEVE & FIND POWER

Luke writes Acts as a continuation of what Jesus of Nazareth began to say and do. But this time, as resurrected Lord, Jesus is working in and through his disciples, now the apostles or “sent ones”. Jesus’ last command before his death and resurrection (see Luke 24:49) was not to “Go” but rather, “Wait, until” what? They needed something absolutely essential. What was this? Why did they need it? How were they to get it? Luke in Acts 1:3-12 answers these questions:

I. WE MUST BELIEVE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE (1:4-8)

By raising Christ from the dead, God the Father by the Holy Spirit declared him to be Lord and the Giver of all life (Romans 1:4). The resurrection was the ultimate proof that Jesus was exactly what he claimed to be, and all God’s promises were fulfilled in him! Did you know that the risen Lord Jesus appeared mainly to his followers several times for forty days! Notice Jesus presented himself to them by “many convincing proofs”. The multitudes and these disciples had witnessed Jesus perform many signs and wonders. Yet such miracles in themselves are no guarantee that people will believe (Luke 16:31). They needed to personally confess that Jesus was the Christ or God’s Messiah who alone can forgive sin, so he alone can also give them new life... in the Spirit! Jesus is God’s Word made flesh. Faith comes by hearing and heeding his Word (Romans 10:17).

II. WE MUST WAIT IN ORDER TO BE EMPOWERED (1:9-12)

John the Baptist had clarified how people would recognize that the Messiah had come (Luke 3:16). He then identified Jesus as the One who will baptize believers with the Spirit *and* with fire! What is this “baptism with fire,” and when does it take place? Jesus lived, served and died to accomplish the mission his Father sent him for. How did he do this? He was anointed i.e. chosen and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus reminded his followers that without him they could do nothing. Yet he promised them “another” (of the same kind) Comforter. This “One called alongside” will not only be *with* them, but also *in* them to enable and lead them into all truth. This is precisely why his last word to them was to wait for the Spirit’s endowment which was their divine empowerment. This was indeed fulfilled for them on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). In this way Christ the Anointed One, anoints his own (Acts 11:15-18). We now ask, for what?