



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
By Pastor Jody May 08/21/2022**

Acts 1:5 & 8 ESV

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2** until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **9** And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, **11** and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Illustration about the unsure relinquishing of Power/Command; Moms, Dads, and babies...

Today in Acts Chapter 1 we see this same type of tension (leaving inexperienced and unsupervised leaders) Jesus is leaving and he’s transferring the power of command of the early church over to His men.

Last week we began to look at this transfer of power, much like a militaristic campaign. Jesus has won, He’s defeated death, the devil, and depravity and



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now He turns over control to men who just a short while ago had abandoned their posts. This is either blind trust, wishful thinking, or **Jesus knows something we don't know**. We will go with door **number three...**

Before this transference of command Jesus has spent forty days (1:3) with His men, opening up their eyes to the scriptures as that is recorded in Luke 24, and please note as well, the end of Luke and Acts are overlapping so as to make sure you don't miss these important events.

Luke 24: 44-45 ESV

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

Then in Acts 1:5 we see the plan of Jesus' transfer unfold. Not only was He sharing with them who He was over those 40 days, but He will be sharing with them where He got His power for His mission - **but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.** *What I received you will receive and what I have done you will do, because I am sending you help.*

Jesus had described this help 45 days earlier on the night before His crucifixion to the disciples to have as an assurance when He does leave:

John 14:16-17 ESV

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the **Spirit of truth**,

The Spirit of Truth, a.k.a. the Holy Spirit, is a helper - παράκλητος (*paraklētōs*). n. masc. **advocate, helper**. *The noun refers to one who helps, advocates, or comforts someone on behalf of another.*¹ The Disciples are going to receive the Holy Spirit, something different than what they have had until now, and that presence will never leave them forever helping them.

¹ Taylor, G. D. (2014). [Testimony](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
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Jesus is transferring command, but He is leaving them the power that He used to win. Church this morning, **I commend** to you here in the book of Acts, on August 21, 2022, that power was enough. That same power through the fall of Rome, through the dark ages, through the Reformation, through World Wars, has always been enough. Not that the church would just survive, but she actually thrived!

That same power is still enough for you! I don't know how you walked into this room this morning, but I do know the condition **you can walk out**. Will you believe the helper is with you or not? As I said last week, I need you to trust this man, someone you have never seen, for He has never been proven wrong about how to live yet...

The problem though is sometimes, when you are a follower of Jesus, even when you have **seen Him do great things**, even when you have received grace upon grace through His forgiveness for your sins, you really are not too keen of the notion of getting back on your horse and **getting back in the world/confronting it/challenging it with the Gospel**. The world is a scary place, you have had too many fails, too many challenges, & too many close calls. If that's you, I believe that God's Word will help you out tremendously today!

[INTRODUCITON]

The Ascension

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

"They had come together" – the question that needs to be asked is, *from what, or from where?* I have a theory.

After the resurrection, after seeing the Lord in the upper room, it is obvious from the text that Jesus is coming and going; His home address is changing, He is not with the disciples all the time. Then there is something in John that happens that is worth noting.



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
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John 21:1-3 ESV

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

21 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. **2** Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. **3** Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

I just want to point out the strange decision of the disciples. *Jesus is back, He's won, 'yeah', **let's go fishing?*** What's going on here, what is the thought process? "The work is over, I need a job, I need a vacation, I need to do something I'm familiar with, I need to do something I still think I can do, we're just common men..."

Jesus answers the situation the same way He did in Luke 5:1-11; **with a personal visit to invite them back.** Maybe you remember that story, first time Jesus meets Peter, he had been fishing all night and again caught nothing. Jesus says just throw the net on the other side and Peter fusses a little but he does as he's told. Wouldn't you know, it brings in the largest haul of fish anyone has ever scene. Here it is the fishermen of Galilee are showed up by the local Rabbi of Galilee. Then **Jesus calls them** and tells them I will make you **fisher of men**, I am changing your profession!

Fast forward 3.5 years and again Jesus meets the boys in the boats:

4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** Jesus said to them, "**Children**, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." **6** He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. **7** That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
By Pastor Jody May 08/21/2022**

Jesus called them children, not necessarily a cut-down, but a sign of endearment. Peter responds differently than the first meeting where he told Jesus to leave him for, he was a sinful man, but instead Peter gets out of the boat and swims to shore. He at least demonstrates **the need to run to Christ instead of away from Him when you are not sure what to do!**

Look, like I said this morning I don't know the condition you walked in here this morning, but maybe you have put your metaphorical boat out in life and you're just going through the motions hoping to get a bite, (that is reactive living). I want to tell you Jesus is walking by, put the net down, put that thing that you find comfort in away, that way of living that you're protective of, strip it off and go to Him, He has something for you today!

So, Jesus tells Peter on that day if you love me feed my sheep, take care of them, nurture them, **I am turning over the command Peter**. I need you to get the boys ready meet me at the mount of Olives.... And like that Peter remembers his first calling, "I am to be a **fisher of men**."

Brings us back to Acts 1:6, **So when they came together** – they had regained purpose, had regained some sense of direction, they didn't know where they were going but they sure did know who their leader was now. They had been scattered, they had been shocked, they had lost direction and had gone fishing – but now they had been reassembled, they had been offered the invite again to follow Jesus, but all of that still doesn't mean they get it yet.

⁶... they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Alright, they finally get the chance to ask Him **'THE' question**, are you ready to take over now, to be the reigning physical Messiah? *We were thinking before the crucifixion, you taught us it had to happen, alright, are you going pull the trigger now?* Let me tell you I would have done the same thing. I have my leader in front of me, He has the power, it's time to use it, let's wrap this up Jesus so we all can get back to fishing!

You see this is something I see a lot in people. They go through something difficult, they learn some hard lessons, and when they perceive it's over, they



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
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operate as if God is done. They want to **go back to life as normal**. It's like a thank you Lord for fixing my life, I'm going back to fishing. People often stop seeing themselves in the plans of God when their personal crisis is over. **But let me offer perhaps a more correct hypothesis; maybe the reason you have a Crisis is so that God will prepare you for your calling!** Going back to fishing is not what you were made for, we all are to be *fishers of men*...

The Holy Spirit is the presence of the Living God in our lives but let me ask you family, do you think the presence of God, His deliverance from your problems, your redemption, is **just about removing you from discomfort?** Could it be that the HS has a higher purpose in saving you? Let me give you the main point this morning so you can see it unfold as we go through these verses together:

**Main Point: The Reason for the presence of the Holy Spirit is TO
Take Jesus' name in all the Earth.**

What I want us to do now is go through this interaction, I want you to know upfront that **Jesus is not about making you comfortable!** But I want you to listen to His directions for it is the same directions for the church for thousands of years, listen for the three very specific commands:

[EXEGESIS]

1. **Stop Worrying** about what you don't know.

⁷He said to them, "It is **not for you to know** times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

Alright the question is finally answered: "Stop asking me." He's answering that same itch in the back of the brain we all are born with, "**Are we there yet?**" The answer gives two implicit truths that all the Apostles believed in and can help you too:

- ^{1st} – **Don't worry about your tomorrows keep your focus on today.** –



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
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Mat 6:34 - "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

- 2nd – **The future is set He will return but no one knows when.**
Mat 24:36- "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.
Rev. 22:12 - "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done."

Listen this goes back to a very simple thing we all have to practice; will you trust someone you can't see? Those that have the Spirit will. This week when you feel worry bubbling up, press it back down by prayer and Word and ask Jesus simply to help you believe what it says in the Bible. Then choose to believe that "Helper/HS" will help you and do it, practice your faith.

2. **Start Believing** God will give you power to do what He asks.

⁸But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,

Here comes the promise again from John 14: I will send the helper. The helper will bring power, for what? That comes in the next point, but it does point back to the fact **that Jesus won't be sending you on vacation.** Where you are going you are going to need power.

Listen every person in heaven is a living eternal testimony that says the only way you get to spend eternity with a Holy and Righteous God is if you get help. Every saint is still living in the presence of what was given to them at their conversion, the HS. No one makes it without Him. Here's why you need Him:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my **power** is made **perfect** in **weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
By Pastor Jody May 08/21/2022**

We need power because of our weakness – Weakness is given to us, to be allowed, for in it is where God likes to **demonstrate the power**, that He sends you in the form of the Spirit. Paul has learned that when he chills and relaxes and becomes ok with his weaknesses, that is when the power is perfected. – Perfect here in the Greek (v.9) τελέω (*teleō*): vb.; ≡ Str 5055; TDNT 8.57–1. LN 68.22 **complete**, fulfill². Paul will always have enough to do, for what he's supposed to do, when he relies in God's strength not his own.

You want to show power, next time someone criticizes you don't defend thank them for noticing, bless them, change what you can, and let God get glory. Being defensive about yourself is trying to win back your own glory.

You want demonstrate power, next time you endure hardships don't drop everything you're supposed to be doing for God. Freaking out about stuff never helps, keep loving your family, keep being a good employee, and stop worrying about how to remake your world again.

You want to experience power, when you are persecuted and endure calamities, praise God don't curse Him and don't curse your enemies. Persecution sets you up to look like Christ, instead choose to celebrate it, for you get a chance to bring light to this world.

Then like Paul you will finally understand when he says:

Philippians 4:13 ESV

¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

All things means, suffering and overcoming like Jesus did, because he was experiencing the power of the HS, which made him **boast gladly** there inv.9. Don't skim that over (2 Cor 12:9), that's not a lie. There is nothing quite like looking back at the world when the world has tried to stomp you out and all they see reflected back is Jesus, there is nothing better than that moment. But you got to start believing it, practicing faith, or it will not happen, and you will miss out on point three.

² Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.s



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
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3. **Keep Going** until He returns, or you die trying.

⁸... and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

μάρτυς (*martys*). n. masc. **witness, martyr**. A person who witnesses and, perhaps, has been killed as a result.³

Here we go, Jesus is like stop worrying about what you don't know. No one knows when I am coming and no one knows how the end will happen, but we all know that those things will happen. You are going to need power, power for things that are not going to be easy, but in your weakness, we learned power is perfected. **Now we see why, you are going to take my message, to the world, proclaiming the Kingdom of God:**

First to Jerusalem – Chps. 1-7

Then to Judea and Samaria – Chps. 8-12

And all the earth Chps 13-28

Then that's where we come in, for the that phrase, **to the ends of the earth** has not finished yet. How do we know?

Matthew 24:14 ESV

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **then** the end will come.

**Main Point: The Reason for the presence of the Holy Spirit is TO
Take Jesus' name in all the Earth.**

Here is the reality we have to grasp right now folks, has he returned? No? Then we are not yet done... Nations in the text, most theologians agree that means people groups. Listen, you may never go overseas to share the gospel but by being a responsible and fruitful member of the local church you are helping keep the gospel alive and flourishing.

³ Taylor, G. D. (2014). [Testimony](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
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Keeping the local church alive, healthy, and fruitful is what raises up those missionaries to take the gospel to the last group at the 1040 parallel. The place where Islam and Hinduism have walled themselves in under militaristic force to keep out the gospel. This is it, we have them on their heels. They are reeling but we have got to all do our part, so we can see the return of the King!

The call is to keep going, or die trying, and that has been the call for 2,000 years, and every year we get closer to the call. It's going to happen, you want the world to see Christ, you want the madness to stop, you want to bring justice to all, you want to see the earth recreated, then keep going don't stop, and leave it all on the field and maybe we might be the generation that sees Him in come like he went in the Shekinah Glory of God.

So, what do we do to do our part? Here are some suggestions. The book of Acts by the way is just that, it is all about Christians responding to what they have seen and heard from the apostles, and we are no different.

[CHALLENGE APPLICATION]

- Be obedient, remember He shall return! (v.11)
 - Luke 12:35-48 Like a thief in the night!
 - Be ready and dressed for action – keep yourself engaged in the work of the church (35-37)
 - Be ready keep from idolatrous living (45-48)

- Be Obedient, stop waiting for a Physical Deliverance (v.6).
 - Are we still looking for His blessing?
 - Are we still looking for His deliverance?
 - Do we understand that suffering delivers us unto Salvation, and suffering brings people into faith?

- Be obedient, go on your way with expectation (v.8 & 10).
 - You will have the Spirit on you to move with power.
 - You will have a dead-line so use his power while you can.
 - You will see Him return in victory, be a part of that.



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Wk. 2 Transfer of Command
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Family live expectantly, live joyfully, live victoriously for the enemy is on his heels. Expect power to come in your moments of weaknesses and rejoice when you too witness to the world that the joy of the Lord is your strength.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has sent you the Spirit so you too can discover joy in weakness.

Go in the name of the Son, that perfected His life in the Spirit's power and conquered the enemy, so we can live in victory.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that will give you the power needed not to just survive but thrive in this world for the cause of Christ!