

**An Up-close & Personal Focus on  
The Foundation Of Our Faith**

Easter Season 2023

**Processing & Practicing God's Promises & Priorities**

—from Acts 1

—**Acts 1:6–8** So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; **but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.**”

—**Acts 10:39–43** Peter said, “**We are witnesses** of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. **And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.** Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

**The CENTRAL THEME of Today's Study**

After \_\_\_\_\_ His faithful followers to  
\_\_\_\_\_ of discipleship,  
Jesus instructed them to wait \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem  
for what the Father had \_\_\_\_\_!  
The Holy Spirit would come to \_\_\_\_\_ them with the  
\_\_\_\_\_ needed to help them be His witnesses!

—**Considering the BACKGROUND of Our Study:**

—**1) Matthew 28:16–20**

- Jesus met with His confused disciples in Galilee.
- He instructed them to **enlarge** the **circle of discipleship**.
- He **promised** His presence.

—**2) Luke 24:45–49**

- Jesus helped His disciples process His death & resurrection.
- He revealed that they were **witnesses of this truth**.
- He instructed them to **wait in Jerusalem for the Father's promise**.
- He told them they would be **clothed with power from on High**.

—**3) Acts 10:39–43**

- Peter & his friends were witnesses of Christ's ministry & death.
- God raised Jesus from the dead & made Him visible**.
- He was only made visible to **a select crowd of witnesses**.
- Those **witnesses** were **commanded to proclaim what they saw!**

—**4) Acts 1:1–2**

- Luke wrote Acts as a continuation of his account about Jesus' life.
- Acts reveals how God was working in the lives of Jesus' followers.**

—**Comprehending the BASIC TRUTHS from Our Study: (Acts 1)**

—**1—** Jesus presented \_\_\_\_\_! {1:3–5}

- He spent 40 days convincing His disciples.
- He also taught them about the coming Kingdom.
- They were commanded to wait in Jerusalem . . . --
  - for what the Father had promised;
  - for what Jesus had explained in the upper room;
  - for the baptism by the Holy Spirit.

—2— At first, His disciples were ..... ! {1:6-7}

—They asked Jesus about the kingdom:

—Their focus was on .....

—They were anxious about Israel's fate & future.

—They anticipated that Jesus would take control.

—Their minds were also on ..... matters.

—Peter was processing & he went fishing. (See John 21)

—Mark & Luke both note that it took time for belief.

—Jesus answered their question without rebuking them.

—3— Jesus reminded them about God's .....! (2:8)

—He explained that God would give them ..... to...

—live ..... lifestyles and to ...

—..... the Gospel to...

—..... both near and far.

—4— Jesus ascended to heaven as God had .....! (2:9-11)

—He was lifted up on a cloud.

—The disciples gazed at the sky as if they were in a trance.

—Two angelic men explained that He would return like He left.

—Observing our **Biblical Conclusions** from This Study:

—1} Jesus ascension is a blessing & a benefit for the Church.

—2} On a regular basis, we should ask ourselves,  
“Am I aligned with God's plans? —or—  
do I (selfishly) expect God to align His plans with mine?”

Am I PRE-OCCUPIED or DISTRACTED with:

personal idols?

doubts & fears?

worries & anxieties?

impatience & inability to wait for God's provision/promises?

life's challenges & concerns?

—3} One of our most pressing problems is self-sufficiency.  
All of us need to be humble enough to rely on God's power that  
comes from being saturated & filled with His Holy Spirit!

Our Lord Jesus is the PERFECT example of someone who was  
controlled by God's Spirit!

—4} Successful ministry is always a result of being ENABLED &  
EMPOWERED by God's Spirit