

# UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

## “THE PROMISE”

ACTS 1:1-26

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**Introduction:** Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He made two promises to His followers. Today, we will discover the promise that is yet to be kept and the promise that has already been fulfilled.

### I. **The Promise Made** (Acts 1:1-5)

Acts 1:1-2 <sup>1</sup> “The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.”

Acts 1:3-5 <sup>3</sup> “To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”

Luke 3:16 “John answered and said to them all, ‘As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’”

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For with one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

### II. **The Promise Anticipated** (Acts 1:6-11)

#### A. **Jesus’ Final Instructions to His Followers** (Acts 1:6-8)

Acts 1:6 “So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’”

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Acts 1:7-8 <sup>7</sup> “Jesus said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; <sup>8</sup> 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.’”

## B. Jesus’ Ascension Into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11)

Acts 1:9 “After He had said these things He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”

### 1. Jesus’ ascension was necessary so that He might return to the Father.

John 16:28 “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.”

### 2. Jesus’ ascension was necessary for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7 “I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

Acts 1:10-11 <sup>10</sup> “As they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’”

## III. The Promise Prepared For (Acts 1:12-26)

### A. The Disciples Wait For the Promise (Acts 1:12-14)

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Acts 1:12-14 <sup>12</sup> “Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

## B. The Disciples Select Another Apostle (Acts 1:15-26)

Acts 1:15-16 <sup>15</sup> “At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, <sup>16</sup> ‘Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.’”

Acts 1:26 “They drew lots for them and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.”

## IV. Timeless Principles From Acts 1

### A. Our Life: God Is Sovereign Over Our Circumstances, Mistakes, and Choices

Proverbs 20:24 “Man’s steps are ordained by the LORD, how then can man understand his way?”

### B. Our Responsibility: Our Primary Mission Is To Spread the Gospel

### C. Our Hope: A Promise Delayed Is Not a Promise Denied

John 14:2-3 <sup>2</sup> “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again to receive you to Myself, that where I am there you may be also.”

Conclusion