



WEEK 1

Acts 1: Wait

Text: Acts 1:1–11

Acts
UNSTOPPABLE

OPEN

This is our first week of our series in Acts called “**Unstoppable**” based on Acts 5:42 which says, “*Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.*” Like a powerful waterfall, the book of Acts is the story of the unstoppable movement of Jesus. It is the story of the birth, life, and ministry of his Church that we are part of today as a **people of God, filled with the Spirit of God, to fulfill the mission of God, by sharing Jesus with others.** Through this series we will be following the story of birth the Church and how it followed in the footsteps of Jesus’ Spirit-led life and ministry. Like Jesus, his body the Church is Spirit-born, Spirit-filled, to be a Spirit-empowered people, sent to continue in the mission and ministry of Jesus.

READ

Context: Luke-Acts functions as a single two volume composition. The author Luke picks up the story where he left off at the end of Luke 24.

- **Read Acts 1:1-9 and Luke 24:36-53.**
 - How many similarities can you find that bridge the end of Luke’s Gospel and beginning of Acts?
 - What instructions does Jesus give his disciples before ascending to the Father?
- In both Luke and Acts Jesus spent time providing evidence of his resurrection to the disciples.
 - (1) What was one way Jesus proved his physical resurrection (see Acts 1:4, Luke 24:39-43) (2) How did this prepare them for the ministry he was calling them into?

REFLECT

- **Read Acts 1:4-5.** Before they begin their ministry, Jesus instructs his disciples to *wait* for the Holy Spirit. Why do you think Jesus has them wait on the Holy Spirit?

In Luke’s gospel the theme of the Holy Spirit fills the life of Jesus from birth to baptism and is the empowering source for his ministry (see Luke 4:14-21). In fact Jesus’ first miracle of turning water into wine doesn’t happen until after he is baptized/filled with the Holy Spirit.

- **Read John 5:19-20, 30; John 8:29-29.** How do these passages demonstrate how Jesus’ entire ministry was Spirit-led?
- How does Jesus’ life and ministry provide a model for the life and ministry of his body the Church? How does this encourage you as you follow after Jesus today?

Like Jesus, after the disciples are baptized with the Holy Spirit they are empowered to fulfill the mission of Jesus by making him known to others. Mission is not a creation of the Church, something we do for God but rather something God does through us by his Holy Spirit.

- Read and discuss this quote by Stephan Seamands:
*“Ministry, then, not so much asking Christ to join us in our ministry as we offer him to others; ministry is participating with Christ in his ongoing ministry as he **offers himself to others through us.**”*
- How does this quote impact the way you think about your role in God’s mission? How does it encourage you?

APPLY/PRAY

- Before they could participate in the ministry of Jesus the disciples had to *wait* on the Holy Spirit. What is something you are waiting on God for today? Share that and pray for one another.
- What is one area of your life that you sense the Holy Spirit is calling you to be more faithful in? Pray for that.
- As a church, we are in a season of waiting for a new lead pastor to be identified. Continue to pray for the Board of Elders, pastoral staff members, and other leaders for wisdom, unity, and grace, as we wait on the Lord for direction in the future.

