



SERMON NOTES

4ORTY-4OUR - *Viral* - Pastor Carl Toti
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WITNESSES OF JESUS

Acts 1:1-3 (NLT)

¹ In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

Both the works and words of Jesus are praised. His works validate his words and his words validate his works. Many today celebrate the works of Jesus but reject the words of Jesus.

As we study Acts we are going to learn a lot about the person and the work of the Holy Spirit. Let's approach our study of Acts not as Charismatic's, or Baptist, or Methodist, or Pentecostals, or Catholics, or, non-denominational or etc. But as sincere and devoted followers of Jesus Christ with humble hearts allowing God's Word to interpret itself and receiving in humility the revealed truth to apply and obey to our lives!

Acts 1:4-5 (NLT)

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."



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In verse one Luke speaks of his “former book” which is the gospel of Luke. Luke’s gospel is the prelude to Acts. Remember how Luke concludes his gospel?

Luke 24:49 (NKJV)

⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Jesus speaks about “POWER” the gospel is about POWER. The Greek word is dunamis. It is where we get our English word for dynamite.

WITNESSES TO THE TRUTH

Acts 1:6-8 (NLT)

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” ⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

WITNESS: The word comes from the Greek martyrs which is the root for our term martyr.

WITNESSES OF THE SPIRIT’S POWER

Luke 11:11-13 (NLT)

¹¹ “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”



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The Holy Spirit is a gift for God's children only.

John 14:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

WITNESSES TO CHRIST ASCENSION

Acts 1:9-11 (NLT)

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? *(there is work to do no time for standing around gazing into heaven)* Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Notes: The ascension of Christ concluded the earthly ministry of Christ in bodily form. Luke is the only one to record it. It is reminiscent of Enoch and Elijah's departure. He is now serving in the capacity of His Priestly ministry.