

“Focusing On What WAS ...SHALL BE ...IS TO COME!”



1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach² 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 he suffered and died, 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.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.”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.”⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. Acts 1:1–9 (NLT)

- The Holy Spirit—a new, **UNSTOPPABLE** and **UNEXPLAINABLE** power that no one can physically touch, hold or manipulate!

¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that.¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:... Acts 2:14–24 (NLT)

- The promised and birth of something new—“**THE CHURCH**” is bigger than an **individual person** and/or a **geographical location**!

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:17–18 (NLT)

- God established **HIS CHURCH** to function as an **ORGANISM** from the start rather than an **organization**!

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT)

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)

Living The Way God Had Intended For Us To Live!

✓ Not holding God in our **little BOX**!

✓ Living a **reproductive, risk taking** and an **eternally destined** life!

✓ What was said? The **Holy Spirit will come upon you!**

✓ How shall we be living? **Telling people everywhere** about HIM!

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of our people,⁹ are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed?¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved...¹⁸ So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him?²⁰ We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:8–20 (NLT)

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✓ What are we waiting on or expecting? **Jesus’ return**!

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? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!” Acts 1:10–11 (NLT)

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