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AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1: 1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

INTRODUCTION

Richard Bandler tells one story about visiting a mental institution and dealing with a man who insisted he was Jesus Christ - not metaphorically, not in spirit, but in the flesh. One day Bandler walked in to meet this man.

"Are you Jesus?" he said. "Yes, my son," the man replied. Bandler said, "I'll be back in a minute." This left the man a little bit confused. Within three or four minutes, Bandler came back, holding a measuring tape. Asking the man to hold out his arms, Bandler measured the length of his arms and his height from head to toe. After that, Bandler left. The man claiming to be Christ became a little concerned. A little while later, Bandler came back with a hammer, some large spiked nails, and a long set of boards. He began to pound them into the form of a cross. The man asked, "What are you doing?"

As Richard put the last nails in the cross, he asked, "Are you Jesus?" Again the man said, "Yes my son." Bandler said, "Then you know why I'm here." Somehow, the man suddenly recalled who he really was. His old pattern didn't seem like such a good idea. "I'm not Jesus. I'm not Jesus!" the man started yelling. Case closed.

Source: Robbins, Anthony. Unlimited Power, pp. 184-185.

We have to remember, there is only one Jesus. He was nailed on the cross for our sins and He rose from the dead and seated at the right hand of the Father.

Let's look at some of the few days on what happened after the resurrection, what's required of us and what we need to expect.

Background :

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

- Written by Luke
- *In my former book, Theophilus* - The Gospel of Luke was also written to Theophilus

The question is : Who is Theophilus?

There were many theories on who Theophilus is – influential, roman lawyer who defended Paul, Jewish high priest or some were saying that he is not a person because the word Theophilus – means “loved by God or God’s friend”

But based on context in Luke 1, he is a real person.

THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION : Why did Luke wrote the Gospel and the Acts?

Luke 1: Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

I love the reason on why he wrote this... so that we will have certainty. It means, this is a historical content.

Illustration : One of the greatest archaeologists of all time, Sir William Ramsay, didn't think Luke was very accurate. In fact, he traveled throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and other places during the late 1800's and early 1900's in an attempt to refute Luke's historical records in the Book of Acts.

Before his travels he believed that Luke couldn't have been very accurate because of a lack of archaeological evidence to support Luke's claims. Ramsey, after years of study, found the exact opposite to be true, and he completely reversed his position. In fact, Ramsey went on to comment:

Quote : “Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy, he is possessed of the true historic sense ... in short, this author should be placed along with the greatest of historians.” - Sir William Ramsay – one of the greatest archaeologists of all time

Application : This goes to prove again that our faith is based on facts. It means what we believe is real and not a pie in the sky thing.

So after the resurrection, Luke starts again the book of Acts with Jesus's resurrection.

1. Jesus had a physical resurrection

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 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.

Disproving the superstition that souls stay here on earth for 40 days after they die: Christ was seen with a resurrected physical body during his 40 days here – it wasn't just a spirit.

Proof that it was a bodily resurrection.

He was able to eat

Luke 24: They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate it before them.

He showed people His hands and feet with the nail prints in them

Luke 24: 39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." (also John 20:27)

People even grabbed His feet and worshipped Him

Matthew 28: 9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

Application : One of these days, **we will also have resurrected bodies during the Rapture just like what Jesus had – it's not going to decay nor perish.**

Why are we sure of this? It's because Jesus who was born like any other man has been resurrected.

1 Corinthians 15: 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

What kind of body?

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

The kind of body we will have :

- It will not die nor decay.
- It will not sin.
- It will never get sick, nor broken, nor get tired.
- It can fly or go through walls.

John 20: 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Story : Real story of a person who was born that his legs cannot walk. He was forever in a wheelchair. The pastor at that time was talking about the Rapture and he then pointed to the person in the wheelchair, "You will be able to walk again.". The man replied, "No pastor, I will not only walk but I will also be able to fly."

2. Jesus wants us to be his physical representatives.

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."

We have to remember, we are representatives of Christ here on earth – a witness is someone who tells that something is true.

Note : In a court of law, the witness testimony is important but what will the other lawyer do in order to null and void that testimony? HE WILL ATTACK THE CREDIBILITY AND CHARACTER OF **THE WITNESS**. In short, why would I believe the witness when he is not a credible witness because of his character. That's what the devil does in order to try to void your testimony.

The Bible even calls us "ambassadors"

2 Corinthians 5: 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

What's an ambassador? Let's look at how the U.S. State Department describes it.

A US government's ambassador is the President's highest-ranking representative to a specific nation abroad. She is a spokesperson for the United States to the nation in which she resides, as well as a spokesperson to the United States on behalf of the other nation. He is skilled in negotiation and has a patient tenacity to accomplish his nation's goals through a spirit of reconciliation ("What Are the Roles of a Diplomat?", Discover Diplomacy, US State Department,

An ambassador is one who represents a kingdom or a country. And this is what our Lord was talking about with His disciples.

. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

An ambassador's every action and word reflects his own country.

Now, let me show this to you even in the Ten Commandments, on how important is this to God. The Third commandment

Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

We only think about this when we are swearing and using our Lord's name.

But if you look deeper into the words

Etymology : “take” – nasa - bear, carry “vain” shawv – worthless, empty, lying (binabale-wala)
In short, wherever we go, we’re carrying the name of God. We are His image-bearers.

Illustration : Commandment #3 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”

I love how a Jewish person gave an example on this while I was listening on the radio.

The father owns a huge company and they have a tall building. The office of the father is on the top floor. No one sees the father but his sons are the ones running the company and deals with all the department. One son is running the sales department is rude and temperamental and he easily gets upset. He throws things away. He cheats. He lies. He’s rude. The sales department is now scared of the father because they think he is the same way. The other son runs the marketing department. He is kind and gentle and patient and helpful.

The Jewish person asked, “Who is bearing the name of God in vain?”

That's why it's very important also, what comes out of our mouth?

James 3: 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

How can we be good witnesses or representative of Christ here on earth?

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

Our Lord was telling them to stay put until they were baptized by the Holy Spirit.

“Baptizo” which means immersed.

How did they get baptized in the Spirit?

Acts 2: 1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared

and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability

Note : Again, the speak in other languages is another foreign languages.

Illustration : How do you get immersed (BAPTIZO) and then filled (PIMPLEMI) at the same time? It's like getting water from the well. The pail gets immersed in the water but at the same time it's being filled.

When you believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, were you already baptized in the Spirit?

When we were born-again, we were already baptized with the Spirit.

*1 Corinthians 12: 13 For in one Spirit we were **all** baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit may be defined as that work whereby the Spirit of God places the believer into union with Christ and into union with other believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. Gotquestions.org

This is why baptism is called an immersion. It means you and the water became one, immersed with each other.

Discussion : If a Christian is already baptized with the Spirit, does it mean he is filled with the Spirit?

*Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled** with the Spirit,*

It is still a command.

So what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

We should be so completely yielded to the Holy Spirit that He can possess us fully and, in that sense, fill us. Gotquestions.org

It is a life that is completely controlled by the Spirit (as opposed to being controlled by wine)

Illustration : A bottle filled with dirt. The only way to really clean the bottle is to let water continue to run until it's only filled with water.

Note : How do we know what WE ARE FULL OF?

Luke 6:45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Illustration : There was a man who was a drunkard was saying to his friends that he doesn't drink anymore. One time, he was holding those a glass filled with clear liquid. His friend saw him and asked, what's inside? He said, it's just water but then he accidentally bumped him and the liquid inside spilled on his friend's shirt. Upon further examination, it wasn't water. It was vodka.

We know what our heart is full of not in times of peace but in times challenges, difficulties or agitation.

For example : Some people say they trust in God but when problems come, that's the time they know that they are full of worry, they panic or they get angry.

Story : One of the things that my family is known is our temper. When we get heated in arguments, we really get heated. In my anger management therapy, the Christian psychiatrist wanted to find out my first incident on when my temper came out. It was before I was 10 years old, my older sister and I were arguing at the dinner table and then I got a glass of water and threw it at her face.

While I was in the Philippines last week, same sister and I were beside each other again at the table, we started debating and arguing and my voice was starting to crescendo and I started pointing at her and she noticed that and then by God's grace, I remembered that I want to share the Gospel to them later on, I stopped immediately and apologized. But since I was heated still, I stepped out calmly and went upstairs to breathe (techniques), pray and then applied the Why question I learned and then of course asked, "How will they see Jesus in me?"

That's why Paul said :

Galatians 2:20 "I no longer live but Christ lives in me."

How can people believe around us that Christ is alive? THROUGH OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.
Again, are we living in the truth, righteousness and LOVE?

Now look at what happens when you are under the Lordship of Christ and empowered by the Spirit.

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."

This means, once the Holy Spirit takes over your life, He will use you.

Acts 2: 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability

What is the proof that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit?

That person talks about Christ! And you will be my witnesses, telling people filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking

Refer also to Acts 4:8; 4:31; Acts 6; Acts 9:17; 11:24; 13:9

Illustration : A person slurs and says nonsense when filled with wine. But a person filled with the Holy Spirit is overflowing with the Lord and just goes out of his mouth.

Speaking is a witness' primary activity.

Quote : What comes out of our mouth shows what's inside our hearts.

3. Jesus will have a physical return.

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? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

RAPTURE PART : Look at how our Lord will return in other parts of the Bible.

1 Thessalonians 4: 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

When?

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.

Our Lord said :

Revelation 22: 12 "Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Illustration : A gentleman visiting a certain school gave out that he would give a prize to the pupil whose desk he found in the best order when he returned. "But when will you return?" some of them asked.

"That I cannot tell," was the answer. A little girl, who had been noted for her disorderly habits, announced that she meant to win the prize. "You!" her schoolmates jeered; "why, your desk is always out of order."

"Oh! but I mean to clean it the first of every week."

"But suppose he should come at the end of the week?" someone asked.

"Then I will clean it every morning."

"But he may come at the end of the day." For a moment the little girl was silent. "I know what I'll do," she said decidedly, "I'll just keep it clean."

Source: One Thousand Evangelistic Illustrations, Aquilla Webb

SUMMONS :

Earlier, we asked, HE IS RISEN, NOW WHAT?

Now while we are waiting for the Lord's return, based on what we have

LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT JESUS IS ALIVE IN OUR WORDS AND IN OUR ACTION.

So when our Lord and Master comes back, He will say :

Matthew 25:23 "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

S.G.D.