

A Job Worth Starting Is Worth Finishing

“...Of all that Jesus began both to do and teach. Until the day in which he was taken up...” (Acts 1:1-2).

In the Book of Acts we see Jesus continues the work He started on the earth. His plan was to endue His disciples with power; coming inside of them so He would continue to work in His church. In Acts, Jesus is the “worker.” Acts 2:47 says the Lord added daily to the church those who should be saved. He continues to do what He began even up until today (Philippians 1:6).

Hebrews 13:8 reminds us, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” From this Scripture we can conclude:

1. Anything Jesus has done before He can do again.
2. Anything Jesus is doing anywhere in the world, He can do it here.
3. Anything He is doing for anyone else, He can do for me (because He is no respecter of persons) (Acts 10:43).

Jesus continues to do and teach through the Holy Spirit who “shall teach you all things” (John 14:26).

When Jesus was on the earth He was operating in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14) and in Acts His men operated in the same power.

When Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke he wrote about what Jesus did in His physical body. The Book of Acts was written to explain what Jesus was doing, from His throne in heaven, through His spiritual body (which is the Church).

Jesus stated what He was beginning to do in Luke 4:18-19 when He said the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him and He was anointed to...

1. preach the gospel to the poor
2. sent me to heal the brokenhearted
3. to preach deliverance to the captives
4. recovering of sight to the blind
5. to set at liberty them that are bruised
6. preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

When He had finished stating what He was going to do He “closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister” (Luke 4:20). This is symbolic of the completion of His earthly ministry and giving us the responsibility to carry on what He began.

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions” (Luke 10:19-20).

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing; it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father....I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you” (John 14:12, 18).

If we were to try to explain all Jesus did while on the earth it would take more than all the books available (John 21:25). However, let us look at a sampling.

We see Jesus performed seventeen healings of individuals (fever, leprosy, paralysis, withered hand, blindness, deafness, internal bleeding, dropsy, and severed ear.) He still heals today.

Power

He supplied needs by feeding the hungry on five different occasions; financial need of tax money; stood in the boat and calmed the storm (protection); and walked on water. He said, "Greater works than these shall he do" (John 14:12).

He did His miracles anywhere and everywhere; weddings, funerals, graveyards, synagogues, houses, mountains, pools, and boats. Is there anywhere we can allow Him to use us?

How He performed His miracles: He touched, was touched, spat; wept; groaned; and was moved with compassion. Couldn't we touch, weep, groan or be moved with compassion over the needs in this world? We are to complete what He started.

God gave Moses a rod. He gave Elijah a mantle. God has given us His name. What are we doing through the power of the name?

- Jesus has given us dynamite power (Acts 1:8).
- He wants us to be a powerhouse for Him.
- We should go in the power and demonstration of the Spirit.
- We must say what He says.
- We must do what He tells us.
- There is power in us.
- If we don't use the power we are cheating God and robbing people of being ministered to.
- The only hands He has to use are our hands.
- The only mouth He has to use is our mouth.
- The only faith He has to use is our faith.
- We are labourers together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9).
- "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).
- Our ministry will have signs following.
- God is the same.
- We have the same message.

- We have the same Jesus.
- We have the same power.

The only thing that should not be the same is us.

Lord use us to continue what You started!

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus continue to do His work today? _____

2. What are three things about Jesus we can learn from Hebrews 13:8? _____

3. What is the difference between what Jesus did in the Book of Acts and the Gospel of Luke?

4. Jesus closing the book in Luke 4:20 could be symbolic of what? _____

5. What has Jesus given us to use as we work for Him? _____

6. What type of power has Jesus given us?

7. In which ways does Jesus want to use you?

