



"Last Words, a Goodbye, and an Ascension"

Acts 1:4-11
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Ken Dalton

The Big Idea: After 40 days of regular appearances and conversations with the Disciples the time for His return to His Father arrived. Jesus gathered, gave final commands, and a promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. In the event we find **essential instructions** for the Christian life and the ministry of the Church.

Acts 1:4-11

1 ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, *"you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*
⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, *"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"* ⁷He said to them, *"It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

WHY DID JESUS LEAVE? What is He doing now?

- ✓ The Ascension was the completion of the work of His death and resurrection and marked the Father's acceptance of the Son's **atonement** on our behalf. [Hebrews 1:3]
- ✓ To **keep** His **word** to the Disciples, He had to leave. Then the Spirit would come and be with them, in them, and would empower them. [John 14:15-18]
- ✓ Christ is now physically present in heaven, **reigning** over all things. [Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 1:16-17]

- ✓ He is reigning as the preeminent **Lord** over His Church. [Colossians 1:18]
- ✓ Jesus is **interceding** on our behalf. [Hebrews 7:25]
- ✓ Jesus is getting your **room** ready, preparing for that day when you will join Him. [John 14:2-3]
- ✓ Jesus unleashed His ministry through the Holy Spirit from the physical restraints of **time** and **space**.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT DOING TODAY? Why was it so urgent that the disciples wait for His coming?

1. He is the one who opens our minds to understand **Truth** and helps us to **remember** what Jesus has said. [John 14:26]
2. He is the very presence of Christ **inside** the Christian. [John 14:17]
3. It is the Spirit's work to give us a redeemed **heart** that desires and is empowered to obey God. [Ezekiel 36:26-27]
4. He is the **Seal** of our salvation. [Ephesians 1:13-14]
5. The Holy Spirit **comforts** the Believer. [2 Corinthians 1:4]
6. He gives **gifts** to the Christian for the building up of the Church. [1 Corinthians 12:7]
7. He empowers us for **witness** and **mission**, spreading the Gospel throughout the world. [Acts 1:8]

In the Gospel of Luke We Are Given a Few Important Details Not Included in Acts

Luke 24:50-53 (ESV)

⁵⁰And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands **he blessed them.** ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And **they worshiped** him and **returned to Jerusalem** with **great joy,** ⁵³and were continually in the temple **blessing God.**

What are the responses we owe our King?

- ✓ We worship Him **exclusively.**
- ✓ We obey Him **joyfully.**
- ✓ We rejoice **constantly.** God's provision? The Father who loves us, the Son who saves us, and the Spirit who empowers us.
- ✓ We express gratitude for all God is and does **continually.**

The Ascension is not the end.
It puts us one huge step closer to that Day
when we will look up and see our
King's Return