

LESSON 1

THE WITNESS IN JERUSALEM

Read Acts 1 & Study Note: Assurance of Salvation

FACT QUESTIONS

1. Compare the first verses of this chapter to the first paragraph of **Luke 1**. What similarities do you see? Who is the author of Acts?
2. What were some of the “convincing proofs” that Jesus gave of His resurrection (**John 20 & 1 Corinthians 15**)? How many days were there between His resurrection and His ascension? Why do you think it was so long?

LESSON QUESTIONS

3. Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus if He was going to “restore the kingdom to Israel?” What do you think this means? What was Jesus’ response?

4. Jesus calls us to be His witnesses. Where is your “Jerusalem,” your “Judea,” and your “Samaria?” How do you see the heart of God for people in this commandment? What is your response to God’s call to tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ?

5. What great event occurred after Jesus commissioned His disciples? What promise was given about His return?

6. In verse 4, Jesus commanded his disciples and others to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. What is your response when you are in a time of waiting on the Lord?

7. **CHALLENGE QUESTION:** Verse 8 is the key verse of the entire book. How does the flow of the book follow Jesus’ commission to be His witnesses? (Skim the book of Acts)

HEART APPLICATION QUESTIONS

8. How has God given you comfort and shown Himself faithful to you as you wait in prayer? How has God used a waiting period in your life to help you trust Him in a greater way? Share this with a friend.

9. Whom in your daily life, that you see and know, needs the Lord Jesus Christ? How will you commit to praying for them daily?

10. What has God currently called you to do for Him in your church, community or family? How are you trusting in God's power or, are you trusting in your own strength to accomplish His purpose? This week, will you pray and ask God for his power to help you accomplish His purposes?

Memory Verse - Acts 1:8

"But 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."

LESSON 1

STUDY NOTES

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

This doctrine is one of God's greatest blessings to the Church. To know with certainty that you belong to Jesus Christ, that your identity and destiny are secure in Him, is beyond wonderful.

There are many people who go to church or some kind of religious service each week, but they still lack the assurance of salvation. Some are taught that you can never be certain that your sins are forgiven, and that heaven is your eternal destiny. With no assurance, these people have no peace, and with no peace, many experience overwhelming anxiety.

Others have a false assurance based on their works, what they have done "for God" (**Matthew 7:22**). Still others are convinced that since they are a "good person," they will enter heaven's gates when they die.

For the true believer in Jesus Christ, we can enjoy peace knowing that our salvation is secure.

The foundation for our assurance of salvation comes from the Word of God.

Believers are truly "Standing on the promises of God."

Jesus promised: "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day" (**John 6:40**).

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" (**John 10:27-29**).

Paul declared: "...because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day" (**2 Timothy 1:12**).

The Apostle John testified: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life" (**1 John 5:13**).

The second reason for our assurance is Christ's finished work on the Cross.

From the cross, Jesus Christ declared, "It is finished" (**John 19:30**). There is no need for anything to be added to Christ's sacrifice - no religious ritual, no personal merit, and no works, regardless of how "good" they are. Jesus Christ has made atonement for sin "once for all" for those who will come to Him by faith.

Jesus Christ has satisfied God's holy demands for justice. He is holy and He cannot tolerate sin. On the Cross, Jesus Christ became sin for us, suffering the fullness of God's wrath against sin. He did this in our place, and if we have received Christ's offer of forgiveness, then we are forgiven and no longer under God's wrath, with no fear of God's judgment on sin (**Romans 8:1**).

"Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe." The huge debt of sin we have accrued has been paid. He has bought us, redeemed us, saved us, forgiven us, and delivered us from the penalty of sin and secured our place in heaven with Him forever.

God wants you to rest on the finished work of Christ knowing that it is sufficient for your salvation.

The capstone of our assurance of salvation is the seal of the Holy Spirit.

"And you were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory" (**Ephesians 1:13-14**).

This is the inner confirmation that you are a child of God.

"And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us" (**1 John 3:24**). The Holy Spirit confirms in our heart what we already believe to be true.

Assurance of salvation is not based on feelings, but on the promises of God. What God has done to save you can never be undone. Our justification is a transaction before the Almighty Judge, and He has declared us, "not guilty." There is no higher court. God has done it and no one can undo it.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (**Romans 8:38-39**).

LESSON 1: MESSAGE NOTES

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PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS