

Introduction:

- Theme: The Book of Acts - It's Still Happening!
- Is it the Acts of the Apostles? Acts of Holy Spirit? or the Acts of the early church?
 - If it's the Acts of Holy Spirit? Holy Spirit never laid hands on.
 - If it's the Acts of the Apostles? Steven wasn't an apostle and neither was Phillip.
 - If it's the Acts of the Ecclesia? Then everywhere the church was scattered the Kingdom spread. (Acts 8:1-4; 11:19)
- Like insurance: Acts is considered the Acts of God done through amazing people of God on earth. When bad things happen to the kingdoms of darkness it is an 'Act of God!' through His people.
- ***"For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' " And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region."*** (Acts 13:47-49, ESV)
- I was reading a story of a soldier driving an M1A1 tank for the first time. Being a country boy he thought this would be no big deal. His commander ordered: Hard left! But the soldier couldn't do it because he couldn't see. The commander said, "I gave the order. Hard left! Your job is not to look and see it is to follow orders. The soldier then obey and followed all orders after that. Everything went fine. The soldier was not required to see; only to follow orders.
 - Well, the command of God is still in place!

I. A Command Has Been Given and The Command Is Still In PlaceA. The command still stands.

1. Jesus said to do two things in the great commission: Go... ***"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."*** (Matthew 28:19, NLT)
 - a) 'Go' is aorist passive participle - Meaning 'as you go, or wherever you go' It is not a command or call to be a missionary.
 - b) Make disciples is the command in the passage. As we go and wherever we go are the ones we are to reach.
2. Until we see, what He said, as a 'command' we will never go. There are some people who are going but they are sight seeing, not following orders.
3. 'Within the great commission is the responsibility to do everything that Jesus taught them.' Bill Johnson. That means living out the Gospel
4. Make disciples... of all nations.
 - a) There is a purpose in our going—To make other followers of Christ.
 - b) Make is in the imperative tense thus making it a command.

- c) The way the sentence is structured, there is also an emphasis on going based on "Go"s connection to make! You cannot make disciples if you do not go! As believers we have to step into the command to make disciples.
- d) Jesus gave the command and the command still stands. Paul realized this...
- B. Paul is preaching in Acts 13:47, and he says (the Lord has commanded us.)
 - 1. Note to self: the command moves Paul. What is missing that the command does not move us today? "Jesus, let your command move us!" "... *I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.*" Comes from (Isaiah 49:6, NLT).
 - 2. Paul lived with this sense of urgency on his life to share Christ with others... because of the command! If you saw Jesus face to face and He said "Go to the Gentiles!" would you think about staying home. Saul went immediately Acts 9:20
 - 3. Jesus told us, ""*You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.*" (Matthew 5:14, NLT) If you do not shine among lost people, for lost people, they will never see.
- C. Most who go are unqualified, untrained and unlikely. So there is nothing stopping you but you.
 - 1. "*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*" (Acts 4:13, ESV)
 - 2. The members of the council saw that the disciples had not been trained in the school of higher learning. They had been trained in the supernatural school of the Spirit.
 - 3. The command has been given and the command is still in place!

II. Power Has Been Granted And The Power Is Still Accessible

- A. Power = exousia. "*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."* (Matthew 28:18, NLT)
 - 1. Exousia - having the right, authority or permission. Ie. A policeman's badge gives him authority to stop cars and write tickets. It is authority given/delegated by a higher authority.
 - 2. Exousia is Gods power, the power given to Jesus, and the power given by Jesus to the disciples.
- B. Acts 4, Lame beggar: "*let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.*" (Acts 4:10, ESV)
 - 1. The authority of the name. By the name of Jesus... "*Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.*" (Acts 5:41, ESV)

2. That authority raised this man. This mans stands well because of the authority of that name!
- C. Power = Dunamis - *"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."* (Acts 1:8, NLT) It is interesting because Jesus says "Go!" But before you go, stay! Stay to get power. In your staying you will get something that will make your going work!
1. *dýnamis*, the most important word in the group, means "ability," then "possibility," then "power" Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 187). W.B. Eerdmans.
 2. Power to be witnesses to produce evidence to convince people of the Christ.
 3. Many people have more faith for the return of Christ than they do in the power of the Gospel! We have more confidence in the return of Christ to make things right than we do in the Gospel to transform!
 - a) Hey! Do what I taught you to do! Obey in what He said to do.
 - b) Don't change the assignment! Follow the orders! "I pray and nothing happens." Find out why! Do not change the assignment.
 - c) As a result they fail to follow the command to go and transform a world.
 - d) Revival is here we are in it! IE. Dream of feet entering wheat field.

III. "Acts' Continues To Be Done As Many Are Willing To Go

- A. Michael Nicholson, 71, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, has earned 29 degrees and is now pursuing his 30th. He has one bachelor's degree, two associate's degrees, 22 master's degrees, three specialist degrees and one doctoral degree. "He likes going to school but doesn't want responsibility," said Professor Carey. "Michigan Man Has 29 College Degrees and Counting" by By CHRISTINA NG, June 19, 2012 , ABC News.
1. Many christians are like Michael. They know all about God but are afraid of responsibility.
 2. They are afraid to go.
- B. Acts continues to be done because people still "Go!" Acts continues to happen because people are still obeying the command and going and making disciples!
1. Who gets the testimonies? It is the ones who go.
 2. Who gets the testimonies? It is the ones who risk.
 3. Who gets the testimonies? It is the ones who keep going.
- C. *"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."* (John 14:12, NLT)
1. Jesus actually modeled something that can be followed.
 - a) All we have to do is follow His pattern.
 - b) We grieve the Holy Spirit by wrong activity. Character Bill Johnson.

- c) We quench Holy Spirit by failure to cooperate with divine activity. Power
- D. Faith assures us that Acts will continue.
1. As long as there are men of faith there will be 'Acts' of God seen in the earth.
 2. *"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."* (Mark 9:23, NLT)
 3. In faith we share God's rule. All things are possible in His rule!
- E. It is only in fellowship with Jesus that we can do things. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5, ESV) Miracles - are impossibilities that yield to people who walk in power.

Conclusion:

- Testimonies from BSSM.
- Roger Hackenberg lady with new kidney.
- **HE HASN'T HAD A SEIZURE SINCE - JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BUILLET - BLN MEMBER**
I have a client (financial planner) who had seizures that had been under control with medication for a good decade. Recently, he woke up five times in the space of 2 weeks in the emergency room after having a massive seizure. In light of that, he had an appointment with a neurologist as well as imaging scheduled. He was also soon to undergo surgery on his back. I found out from his boss that he had been having health issues and gave him a call. I asked him if he would like to be healed and he said, "that would be awesome." I prayed for him the day before his imaging and told him he'd know soon if he was healed. At his follow up visit, the neurologist said there was nothing wrong with his brain as far as they can tell, and there's no reason he should be having any seizures. They took him off all his medications and he hasn't had a seizure since. He went for the final imaging before his back surgery a week later and they subsequently canceled his back surgery. His back was totally healed.
- **THE CANCER IS GONE - SAMANTHA BENDER - BLN MEMBER**
My friend, and father of four young kids, battled lymphoma for 3 years and was told there was nothing more the doctors could do. After he was given the terminal diagnosis, God laid him and his family heavily on my heart and I started contending consistently for him in prayer. We got the news a few weeks ago that it is a true proven miracle. He went from planning his funeral and picking out his gravesite to being told there is no disease in his body. JESUS!!! After I heard about the miracle I was instantly hit with the power of God and began 7 consecutive days of shaking and weeping under His power. Still now, when I talk about the incredible things God has done, I get shaky and weepy in a way that is new to me.

A week or so after the first miracle a woman walked into a coffee shop while I was there studying my Bible. I knew she had been battling cancer and God told me to pray for her. She was on a business phone call that looked like it would go for a while so I prayed for her under my breath and kept studying the Word. I honestly lost track of her. Later on she approached me! I asked her how she was doing and she said she was nervous about some upcoming tests. I asked her if I could pray for her and she said "yes." I touched her arm and prayed a simple prayer asking for healing and good reports from the doctor. A few days after that she shared the report from the doctors that there is no more tumor! The doctors didn't know what to do next because the cancer is gone!

- **BAPTIZED AND RE-AWAKENED - RYAN DONNELLY - BLN MEMBER**

On the heels of coming back from the Bethel Leaders Summit a few weeks ago, we had a baptism service at our church where 10 people were not only water baptized but tons of prophetic words were given to each of them. Several commented that it was the best baptism service they had ever been to! After the service there were several who came and said they want to get re-baptized as they want to start a new season of passionately following Jesus! Yes God!!!