

TIMELESS ESSENTIALS — ACTS 1:1-11

These are timeless. We need to know these because we are the instruments that God uses to finish what He began.

1. You Must Have the Right MESSAGE

1:1-3

- Everything begins with teaching. You must be committed to the truth you teach. Jesus was, “*speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God*” (**Ac.1:3**). Jesus said, If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to Myself” (**Jn.12:32**).
- When Jesus began his work, it included teaching (**Ac.1:1**, “*all that Jesus began both to do and teach*”).
- That’s why the New Testament makes such an issue out of knowing sound doctrine.
- Luke is a great model for this because he wants the exact truth (**Lk.1:3**, “*to write to you an orderly account*”).
- What did Jesus “*do*” (**Ac.1:1**) as it relates to us? Jesus lived a life that attracted people because He personified what He taught. His life was consistent with His message. He has the right message and is the right messenger.
- For 40 days, Jesus appeared to them on many occasions with a purpose of instruction (**Ac.1:3**).
- Jesus will continue this work through His apostles and Church until He returns. It’s the work of doing and the work of teaching.
- Whenever God discloses Himself, He does so in words (inerrancy), and the words of divine revelation are written down.
- As stewards of the gospel in our generation, we need to make sure it gets passed down without defect.

2. You Must Have the Right CONFIDENCE

1:3

- When you have confidence (assurance) in the Scripture, that it is the exact truth, you become an effective communicator of the gospel.
- When you know the Word and you believe it, you are powerful because you are not equivocating.
- The marked characteristic of early apostolic preaching is their use of the Old Testament.
- With the coming of the Spirit (right power), the disciples realized the OT fulfillment in a new meaningful way.
- Where did their confidence come from? The Resurrection! Jesus really was alive from the dead.
- Luke says, “*to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs*” (**Ac.1:3**).
- Their confidence from the OT, Christ’s resurrection, and the soon coming of the HS, gave them boldness beyond themselves.

3. You Must Have the Right POWER

1:4,5,8

- Even with the right message, your own human power is not going to make the difference.
- There are all kinds of people that challenge Christianity even denying inspiration, and are called scholars. They are impotent. They are just another guy with another opinion.
- When you hear powerful preaching, there is a preacher who believes in Scripture and is filled with the HS (**Ep.5:18**).
- Powerful preaching comes from the overflow of a genuine demonstration from the transforming power of the gospel.
- For 40 days Jesus taught them the message they would preach (**Ac.1:3**). Even with the right message, they were not yet ready. They needed to stay in Jerusalem (**Ac.1:4**) until they were empowered from on high (**Ac.1:8**).
- Jesus promised that the coming “Helper” or “comforter” would “teach you all things” (**Jn.14:26**).
- Jesus said, “receive the Holy Spirit” (**Jn.20:22**). This was in anticipation when it will occur on the day of Pentecost (**Ac.2**).
- This is not a request to the apostles to somehow get baptized in the Holy Spirit. This does not tell them to plead for it. This is a statement of fact.
- Every believer following Pentecost receives the Holy Spirit (**1Co.12:13**). Paul in Ephesians 1 says, “We are sealed by the spirit of promise.”

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4. You Must Have the Right MYSTERY

1:6-7

⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority (Ac.1:6-7)

¹⁰Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹²To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. (1Pe.1:10-12)

- The prophets who wrote the Old Testament didn't know what person or what time. There's a necessary mystery to the kingdom.
- Joel 2 and Ezekiel 36 connects the coming of the HS with the last days. The apostles jump to the conclusion that this is the end.
- When is the kingdom going to happen is a natural question.
- There is a sense where the spiritual kingdom already existed in the hearts of believers.
- But they were asking about an earthly kingdom promised to Abraham and David where Israel is restored.
- Jesus did not say there is no such kingdom coming. He said it is not for them to know "when" that happens.
- Jesus said to "Occupy until I come" (Lk.19:13). God revealed enough, while keeping enough secret, to excite our anticipation.
- They needed to just keep being faithful without ever knowing when it was all going to come to an end.

5. You Must Have the Right MISSION

1:8

⁸...you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Ac.1:8)

- When the Holy Spirit comes, you become a witness. This is a statement of fact. We need this clear vision of our task or mission.
- If you are a Christian, you have received the Holy Spirit. If you have received the Holy Spirit, you are a witness. The only question is whether you're a faithful one or an unfaithful one.
- "Witness" is the word which gives us our English word martyr. This is because so many witnesses to the gospel died.
- At that time there was no cultural Christianity. They told people to believe in Jesus, or you are going to Hell.
- They were saying that people were sinners, and they were going to perish in their sin. They were preaching the gospel.
- Our culture is increasingly becoming more anti-Christian like it was in the first century.
- The gospel advances by personal testimony to Christ one soul at a time. That is how the kingdom advances.

6. You Must Have the Right MOTIVE

1:9-11

This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven. (Ac.1:11)

- The proper motive is tied to the proper mystery. We need an overarching motive, and that is 'Jesus is coming again.'
- The fact that Jesus is coming again should motivate believers to live for Him, and witness to others.
- Listen to what John writes at the very end of the Book of Revelation. "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.'" John says, "Amen. Come Lord Jesus." He said, My reward is with me to give to every man (Rv.22:12).
- This right motive involves (1) personal meeting, and (2) eternal reward. When I see him face-to-face, I want him to know I love him. I want to hear, "Well done good and faithful servant."