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### Ready. Set. Wait.

Series: *Our Place in God's Plan – A Study in the Book of Acts*

#### ❖ The Book of Acts – Overview

- Sequel to Luke's gospel
  - Compare Lk. 24:36-53 & Acts 1:1-11
  - The Continuation of the work of Jesus – Acts 1:1,2
- The Main Characters
  - The Holy Spirit – *Acts 1:5, 8*
  - The Apostles – Esp. Peter and Paul
  - The First Believers – *Acts 2:42-47*
  - The Jewish Leaders
  - The Political Leaders
  - The Gentiles
- Unifying Themes
  - Giving witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ
    - Acts 1:8, 22; Acts 2:32
  - The baptism in and empowerment of the Holy Spirit
    - Acts 1:4-5, 8; 11:16; 19:1-7
  - The growth and unity of the church
    - Acts 2:42-47;
  - The witness to the Gentiles (non-Jews)
    - Acts 10:34-35
  - Apologetic against legalism and paganism
    - Acts 15; 17:16-34
- Structure of the Book – Jerusalem – 2:1-8:3, Judea and Samaria – 8:4 – 11:18, the ends of the earth – 11:19-28:31.

#### ❖ Acts 1:1-11

*Acts 1:4–5 (NIV) — 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, **but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.** 5 For John baptized with water, **but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**”*

*Acts 1:7–8 (NIV) — 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**”*

**Central Thought:** God has a purpose for you to be done in his time, with his power, in his way.

*Acts 1:9–11 (NIV) — 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

❖ Our job is to continue the work of Jesus until he comes .

#### Homework:

- ❖ Read through the book of Acts
- ❖ Ask God to help you better understand your place in his story.
- ❖ Have you been baptized as a symbol of your faith in Jesus? Have you been filled with his Spirit. If not, prayerfully pursue both. Contact Pastor Scott with questions – [scott@ccclamesa.com](mailto:scott@ccclamesa.com).