November 1, 2026

Sermon Notes: It's Only the Beginning

1. **Continue Christ's work through the Spirit**
    a. Structure and authorship of Acts:
        i. Written by Luke to Theophilus as a continuation of his Gospel (*Acts 1:1–2*).
        ii. Originally called *Acts of the Apostles*, but often referred to as *Acts of the Holy Spirit* because the Spirit is mentioned ~60 times.
        iii. Luke recorded what Jesus *began* to do and teach, implying Christ continues His work through believers today.
    b. Model of Spirit-led living (*Acts 1:1–3*):
        i. Jesus did everything through the Spirit—His baptism, wilderness testing, resurrection, and post-resurrection commands.
        ii. Greater works (*John 14:12*) are possible only because the same Holy Spirit lives within believers.
    c. Proofs of the resurrection (*Acts 1:3*):
        i. Jesus provided "many proofs" (*tekmerion*) over 40 days to build grounded certainty, not blind faith (*Luke 1:4*, *1 Cor 15:6*).
        ii. Early martyrs willingly gave up their lives, proving the historical reliability and power of the resurrection.
    d. Reclaiming the Kingdom of God:
        i. Jesus' death was His coronation; the crown of thorns became a crown of glory.
        ii. Believers advance His kingdom in everyday, mundane tasks by living in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. **Trust God's will in the unknown**
    a. Waiting on the Promise of the Father (*Acts 1:4–5*):
        i. Fulfills OT promises (*Ezekiel 36:26–27*) that God would put His Spirit within His people.
        ii. Metaphor of being "clothed with power" (*Luke 24:49*) parallels OT figures empowered to fight through spirit-inspired speaking: Gideon (*Judg 6:34*), Amasai (*1 Chron 12:18*), Zechariah (*2 Chron 24:20*).
    b. Word study & theological context of Spirit Baptism (*Acts 1:5*):
        i. *Baptizo* (Greek): Means to immerse, submerge, or surround completely (e.g., pickle recipe imagery).
        ii. Contrast with Pentecost: Pentecost (*Acts 2:1–4*) was a unique historical outpouring to ignite the global church, not a requirement that every Christian speak in tongues.
        iii. Universal baptism into one Body (*1 Cor 12:13, 30*): Spirit baptism surrounds every believer and distributes diverse spiritual gifts for the common good (*1 Cor 12:7*).
    c. Surrendering timing and agendas (*Acts 1:6–7*):
        i. Disciples expected immediate political liberation from Rome (like Gideon) based on Davidic Messiah prophecies.
        ii. "Times or seasons" (*chronos* / *kairos*): Fixed solely by the Father's authority (*Acts 1:7*, *Matt 24:36*).
        iii. God graciously hides future details to keep us dependent on His presence rather than consumed by fear.

3. **Bear your witness until the end**
    a. Empowered for a specific mission (*Acts 1:8*):
        i. *Dunamis* (Greek): Miraculous, supernatural power (root for "dynamite") given specifically to be a witness (*martys*).
        ii. Geographical roadmap of Acts: Jerusalem (Ch. 1–7), Judea and Samaria (Ch. 8–11), ends of the earth (Ch. 12–28).
        iii. Includes enemies/outcasts: Samaria highlights that no group or demographic is

excluded from the gospel call.

b. Ascension and promised return (*Acts 1:9–11*):
    i. Jesus was taken up in a cloud (shekinah glory) with a promise of return in like manner.
    ii. Believers are called to active witness rather than passive gazing into heaven.
c. Fruit vs. Spectacular Gifts:
    i. Character over sensationalism: Spiritual power must produce the fruit of love (*1 Cor 13:1–3*), not self-exaltation.
    ii. Warnings against false power: Miracle workers rejected (*Matt 7:22–23*); Simon the Sorcerer rebuked (*Acts 8:18–23*).
d. Practical posture for Spirit-filled living (*Ephesians 5:18–21*):
    i. *Worship*: Addressing one another in psalms and spiritual songs.
    ii. *Gratitude*: Giving thanks always and for everything.
    iii. *Submission*: Serving one another out of reverence for Christ.