

Questions for personal reflection and/or discussion

1. Take time this week to read through the Book of Acts. From your reading (or from what you heard Alan talk about in his message), what do you think the title of this book should be? Why do you think this is the best title?
2. The question that the disciples ask Jesus in Acts 1:6 tells us something about what was on their minds. What do you think their question tells us about them? What questions do you think you would have asked Jesus if you were in their shoes? What do your questions say about you?
3. Jesus made clear to the disciples that their ministry was to be one of “witness” to Jesus and that it would be done through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the same for us today – we are to be witnesses of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Take time today to open your entire life to God and ask for the empowering presence and filling of the Holy Spirit.
4. The geographical locations mentioned in Acts 1:8 indicate an ever-increasing outward movement. If you were responsible for planning the outreach programs of this congregation, what would you do to make sure that we are witnesses both at home in our community and around the world? What advice would you give to our leadership as they begin a new time of strategic prayer and planning in order to make decisions that will help this congregation to be faithful witnesses to the life-transforming power of Jesus?

Moving Forward (I)

Pastor Alan Robinson, February 8, 2009

Acts 1:1-8 (church Bible page 770)

(1) In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach (2) until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. (3) After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (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."

(6) So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

(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."