

Study Guide for January 11th, 2004. Series: The Spreading Flame: Acts 1:1-11 ASCENDED!

Introduction: Imagine that you've been appointed head of a non-profit organization. You will oversee about 100 employees. Your responsibilities will require you to live elsewhere, so the day to day operations will fall to your management team of 11. As you prepare to leave and assume your leadership role, what would be your priorities, especially with the management team you are about to leave behind?

I. Jesus' CONTINUING activity: Acts 1:1-3

- A. Compare the introduction of Acts (1:1-3) with that of the gospel of Luke (1:1-4).
How do these two documents relate? How does Luke want us to read Acts?
- B. Note how Luke ends his gospel (see Luke 24:50-53) and compare it with Acts 1:2-3.
Why do you think it was important that the disciples actually saw Jesus ascend into heaven as well as, "Many convincing proofs that he (Jesus) was alive?"
- C. Do you sometimes find it difficult to believe that Jesus is a real person with a (glorified) body?
How could reflection on these verses of Scripture help you address that doubt?

II. NOW? . . . "It's not for you to know. . .": Acts 1:4-7

- A. What question seems to be uppermost on the disciples' minds? What did they expect?
- B. Summarize what these verses teach us about the differing responsibilities within the Trinity.
 - 1) The Father: 2) The Son: 3) The Holy Spirit:
- C. Review what is said about **the gift my Father promised** (the Holy Spirit) in these verses. . .
 - 1) John 14:25-27: 2) John 15:26-27:
 - 3) John 16:12-15 4) Luke 24:45-49:

How was the ministry of the Holy Spirit **unique** to the disciples? How is it **similar** for us?
- D. How can these verses help you avoid fruitless speculation?

III. Power and Purpose: Acts 1:8

- A. Memorize this verse. "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."
- B. Note the geographic movements in Acts: 1) Chapters 1-7 2) Chapters 8-9 3) Chapters 10-28.
- C. How would like to see the Holy Spirit change you so that you would be a more faithful **witness**?

IV. Ascended and Returning: Acts 1:9-11

- A. Note the significance of Jesus being hid by a **cloud** (see Mt. 24:30-31, I Thess. 4:17, Rev. 1:7).
- B. In Eph. 2:6 we read that believers are **seated with Christ**. How should that affect your prayers?