**ACTS of GOD #1:** *The Rest of the Story*

Acts 1:1-5, Luke 24:44-29 1/06/2019

**And now you know the rest of the story** (Paul Harvey, ABC Radio,1976)

-The Rest of the Story after the Resurrection, 1st 30 years of the Church

 -Paul’s companion Luke composes a 2nd account for Theophilus (62AD)

 -Called Acts of the Apostles by Irenaeus in the 2nd Century

 -Shows God’s acts through believers by the power of the Holy Spirit

-The Rest of the Rest of the Story is still being played out in us, today

 -Will we fulfill God’s purpose by the Spirit’s power in a time such as this?

 -Refocusing ourselves on His purpose & power for this church’s progress

**Proclaiming Purpose: Acts 1:1-2**

*The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,****2****until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.*

-Christ gave orders regarding the final objective to His Apostles by the Spirit

 -Emphasizing the necessity of the Fulfillment of Scripture about Himself

 ***44****Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses & the Prophets & the Psalms must be fulfilled.” -***Luke 24:44**

 **-**This necessity informs both our purpose & our hope as believers

 -Enlightening His Followers to Understand the Scriptures

 ***45****Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,-***Luke 24:45** -Opened fully their faculties to set together & understand Scriptures

 -Not just by teaching (Emmaus), but by the Holy Spirit

 -Specifically understanding Big Picture of the Messianic Mission

 ***46****and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,****47****and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. -***Luke 24:46-47**

-That Christ would Suffer (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22)

 -That Christ would rise on 3rd Day (Sign of Jonah, Hosea 6:2)

 -That Christ would be proclaimed to all nations (Isaiah 49:6)

 -Starting in Jerusalem (Psalm 110:2)

 -In His Name Repentance for (unto) Forgiveness of Sins

-The Apostles (and us) are participants in the fulfillment of all things

**Presenting Proof: Acts 1:3**

***3****To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.*

-Christ gave evidence regarding the truth of His Bodily Resurrection

 -presented Himself alive with many convincing proofs

 An exhibition of indisputable evidence

 -His Resurrection validated His teaching on the Kingdom of God

***48****You are witnesses of these things.* **Luke 24:48**

**Promising Power: Acts 1:4-5**

***4****Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;****5****for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

-The Promised Blessing of the Holy Spirit

 -John 20:22: (He Breathed on them & said receive the Holy Spirit)

 -John 16:7: (When I go, I will send the Helper to you)

 -They had been influenced by the Spirit, but not empowered fully

***49****And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”* **Luke 24:49**

 -Waiting upon the Lord for the Promised Blessing to be realized

 -Invested with power to fulfil the Scriptures according to His command

**We are commanded to walk in the Spirit they were waiting for…**

 **-**To proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name

 -Are We Serving This Purpose?

 -To bear witness to the proof of His resurrection, even in our own lives

 **-**Are We Showing This Proof?

 **-**To rely on the power of the Spirit for representing Christ in word & deed

-Are We Seeing This Power?