

GROWING IN FAITH



Acts 1

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them 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. 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. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:1-5

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GOING DEEPER

What do you think the disciples felt when instructed by their risen Lord to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit?

Has there been a time in your life when God has instructed you to wait for a gift? Is it hard or easy to wait?

Why Jerusalem?

Read Acts 1:14

What effect do you think this practice had on the disciples?

The first recorded act of the apostles is to complete their number.

What were their criteria for selection? (cf. Acts 1:21-22)

Do you surround yourself with people who encourage you in your faith journey, in your relationships, and your purpose in life?

What difference does it make when we surround ourselves with these kinds of people?

Read Acts 1:8. Jesus called his disciples to share the good news with people very different from themselves.

We do not always get the benefit of such a clear calling, but God calls us all to be ministers. With whom is God calling you to share the good news?