

A Journey to Pentecost
The Ascension: A Call to Witness
Acts 1:1-11

Jesus **ascended**, His mission **continues** through us, **empowered** by the Holy Spirit.

The ascension of Jesus is a **call to action**.

Acts 1:3 (NIV) 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.

Hebrews 1:3b (NIV) After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Acts 1:4 (NIV) 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.

WHY WAIT?

- The mission they were being called to was **far too great** to be accomplished in their own strength.
- They needed **power beyond themselves**.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) 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.”

- They were being sent as **empowered witnesses**.
- The **commission** could not be fulfilled without the Spirit of the Living God.

He empowers us **for a purpose**.

Jesus outlines the **expanding nature of the mission**:

- **Jerusalem** – Their immediate community.
- **Judea** and **Samaria** – Their broader region
- **The Ends of the Earth** – The global call

Jesus doesn't commission an **institution**; He commissions individuals to be **witnesses**

As we consider our part in this mission, let us ask ourselves:

- **Where is my Jerusalem?**
- **Where is my Judea and Samaria?**
- **What does the ends of the earth look like for me?**

Acts 1:11 (NIV) *“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has*

been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

The message is clear: **Don't just stand there—go and do what He commanded!**

The question is: **Are we standing around, or are we stepping into the mission?**