

Acts of Jesus – part 3

Gen. 25:8—What does it mean to live a full life?

Jn. 10:10 --But how do you know when that happens?

--According to pollster George Gallup, the one need of people is “the need to believe that life is meaningful and has a purpose.”

In a Peanuts comic strip, there was a conversation between Lucy and Charlie Brown. Lucy said that life was like a deck chair on an ocean liner. Some people place it so they can see where they are going; some place it so they can see where they have been; and some place it so they can see where they are at present. Charlie Brown’s reply was, “I can’t even get mine unfolded.”

--People everywhere feel this dissatisfaction about the way their lives are unfolding or not unfolding

--A great Russian novelist once said, “**Surely I haven’t suffered simply that I may manure the soil of the future for someone else.**” [Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*]

--As we have seen, there is no such thing as a full meaningful life outside of Christ. But even in Christ is it possible to miss out on the fullness He intends? I think so: **1 Cor. 9:24**

--What is a full life for the believer? Paul sums it up in his prayer for the Ephesian church **Eph. 3:14-19**

--A full life for the believer is a **FULL** life. Filled up with God.

--That’s our purpose, that’s where we will find meaning.

--That’s the position from which the abundant life in Christ is lived.

1. In our study of Acts we have come to a very important and very pivotal place as far as understanding this book is concerned.

--We come to the place that defines what the church is: A body of people who are indwelt by the Spirit of God.

--**Acts 1:4-8**

--Not only is this key to understanding Acts, it is also one of the great battlegrounds of evangelical Christians.

--With our predispositions in mind, let’s not forget to come to the Bible as learners and let it shape us.

--We often come to this text to prove something rather than to learn something.

2. First, let me just say that an accurate understanding of Holy Spirit and Pentecost is essential to our understanding of the book of Acts.

--Going to be spending several studies together over this subject

--Let me also say that since our purpose here can only be accomplished as we are filled by and keep in step with the Spirit, I’m praying that God would take these sermons and cause the message of them to sink deep within us.

--**V. 4** Jesus spoke often to His disciples, especially in the last days, about the coming of the Holy Spirit **Jn. 15:26**

--Contrary to what you might think, this wasn’t a new teaching (Notice: “Promise of the Father”); God the Father had spoken this promise in the Old Testament **Joel 2:28**

3. Some Christians seem to think that the Holy Spirit was a stranger to the Old Testament and the Old Testament Saint.

--In fact, a study of Spirit as He works in the O. T. leaves us with little or no surprises of how He would work in the New.

--He was a Teacher **Neh. 9:20**

--He was the manifestation of God’s presence **Ps. 139:7**

--He spoke through men **Zech. 7:12**

--He could be grieved [Is. 63:10](#)

--He enabled people to do things they couldn't otherwise do.

--Craftsmen [Ex. 35:30](#)

--Leaders [Deut. 34:9](#)

--Prophets and Teachers. [II Chron. 24:20](#)

--Warriors [Judges 11:29](#)

--Most importantly for our purposes: He filled people and changed them into the people God wanted them to be. [I Sam. 10:6-7](#)

--Samuel is speaking from experience---can we?

--Are we living a FULL life?

--Scripture says all we have to do is ask! [Lk. 11:13](#)