**Part 1 – The After Party – Acts**

**How to step into God’s story.**

**Jesus rose, proved it, and empowered us—not to sit still, but to rise up and be his witnesses until he returns.**

**How to step into God’s story.**

**Acts 1:1-11**

**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.”**

**Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”**

**He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.**

**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.”**

**After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

**They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.**

 **“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 story wasn’t over. It was just getting started.**

**How can you step into God’s story?**

* **Don’t doubt, believe.**

**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.**

**John 20:29**

**Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.**

* **Don’t do it alone—rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**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.”**

**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.**

**Who is the Holy Spirit?**

* **The Holy Spirit is God.**
* **The Holy Spirit is God’s presence living in the life of the believer.**
* **The Holy Spirit is the change agent for godly living.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

**Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.**

**Become a bold witness for Jesus.**

**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.**

**Matthew 28:19-20**

**Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

* **Live like he’s coming back tomorrow.**

**“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.”**

**Revelation 16:15**

**Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:4**

**But you aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.**

**Are you living like you’re part of God’s story?**