

2023: The Year of Power

A Game Changing Church

The Empowered Church Series - Part 1

Introduction to the Book of Acts & Year Kickoff

Jan 7-8, 2023

Introduction

- **Welcome to 2023: The Year of Power, here at Bridgeway.** We are going to go through a 40 Part series called the **Empowered Church** while we walk line-by-line through the Book of **ACTS!** We will also have **guest speakers** that will fire you up as well as a few short **topical series** that will teach us how to live in the **Freedom** that God's provided us. It's going to change your life!
 - **A Theme Years in the Making** – interestingly I have been preparing for this Theme for years. I was waiting until we were ready as a church family. Years ago there was still too much resistance to wanting more of God. There were too many of us who didn't want to pursue the Lord. In the last few years **God has been transforming us and sifting us to lean into the Book of Acts and actually believe it and live it.** I'm really excited.
- **Why Power?** – Isn't power a negative thing? We think about power-hungry people and gag. Right? But if we look at it another way, **power is what gives us the strength, energy and ability to do the right things.**¹ It's power from the Lord that allows us to continue doing ministry when we grow weary. It's power from the Lord that allows us to stand up when the world tells us to sit down. It's power from the Lord that allows people to be healed and set free. It's power from the Lord that flows through prayer. It's power from the Lord that heals marriages and relationships. It's power from the Lord that saves us.
 - **We Need More** – we need the Holy Spirit flowing MORE through our lives. **How do I know that?** Because the enemy has kept too much territory in our hearts, in our neighborhoods and in our communities. I know because so many of us are addicted to things of this world. I know because a lot of us feel like we are struggling just to get through today and remain strong in the Lord. I know because there are miracles not happening that should be. I know because we are not having the impact that we should be in our families, our friendships, our workplaces, and our schools.
 - **Primarily Perspective** – although there are aspects of Christianity and Holy Spirit's ministry that we need to learn and begin operating in, **a lot of what this year is going to be is a shift in perspective.** The Bible says that God has already given us all that we need. He has given us access to power from heaven. The problem is that most of us are either unaware of it, or simply not using what we've been given. Perhaps as we watch the early church lean into their identity, we may be inspired to walk in ours.
 - Eph 1:15-23 – *“For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father*

¹ Col 1:29

of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

- **Church on Fire** - It's really the year of **learning what it's like to be a Church on Fire!**²
- **A Believer's Power and Authority in Christ** – So, let's start by learning what I mean by God giving His Church power and authority.
 - **What Kind of Power and Authority?** – The best **analogy** to explain the difference between Power and Authority is a police officer's **gun** and **badge**. The badge is for authority and the gun is for power. **The badge says that they have the right to bring control to a situation. The gun says that if there is significant inappropriate resistance, they have the means to enforce their word.** It's similar with Christians operating with the power and authority of God in this world. There are **two key identity markers** that Christians operate under that make all the difference:
 - **1.) Children of God** - We are Children of God, and since God is the King of Creation, that makes us princes and princesses. This means that **IF we are carrying out the will of our Father, we have the right and authority to make things the way that He wants them.** We are operating out of **WHO WE ARE** by our nature connected to God.
 - 1 Jn 3:1 – *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”³*
 - Eph 5:1 – *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”*
 - **2.) Ambassadors of Christ⁴** – Jesus Christ called us to follow Him and for those that do, He gave **the right to operate and act on His behalf⁵**. In other words, we are continuing on the ministry that He was doing before He ascended back into Heaven. What we see Christ doing in the Gospels is a lot of what we should be doing today. **Ambassadors operate in the authority of the one who sent them.** We have been sent by Jesus Christ to bless this world and set people free.
 - **2 Cor 5:20a** – *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,...”⁶*
 - **Col 2:9–10** – *“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”*

² Eph 2:10

³ Cf. Rom 8:16

⁴ John 8:28

⁵ Matthew 7:29; 9:8; 28:18; John 5:27; 10:18; 17:2; Eph 1:16-23; Col 1:16; 2:15; 1 Peter 3:22; Jude 25

⁶ Cf. Eph 6:20

- **One of The Best Authority/Power Stories (Centurion's Servant)⁷** – One of the best stories in the Gospels that demonstrates the impact of power and authority is when Jesus was in Capernaum (His home base town, likely living with Peter) and was approached by a Roman Centurion that was a believer. He told Jesus he had a servant at home lying paralyzed and suffering terribly. He asked that Jesus would heal him. Jesus said, *'sure, I'll come with you.'* The Centurion said, *'that's not necessary for you to come. I'm not worthy to have you in my home. I know who you are and what you can do, just say the word and my servant will be healed. I'm a guy in charge of a lot of soldiers and when I tell them to do something, they ALWAYS do it upon my word.'* Jesus was stunned by his faith and said, *'nicely done. Go home, your servant is healed.'* And he was. But notice the concept of authority to fix what needs to be fixed and the power to get it done.
- **Given to the 12 Apostles, the 70/72 and More** – The Bible clearly records Jesus's empowering and passing of authority to His followers. Perhaps the most famous group that received His empowerment was the 12 apostles. Just think about the power of this verse.
 - **Mt 10:1** – *"And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction."*
- **For What?** – It begs the question, **what do WE need power for?...** Too many of us see life through the lens of just trying to survive. Too many of us live under a victim mentality that the world is beating us up and we are always son the run. Too many of us operate from the mindset that we are here to do the best and get the best for ourselves. But all of that is incorrect and short-sighted. The only reason we aren't in heaven with God right now, is because there's important stuff to do, here on earth.⁸ We aren't here to build our kingdom, we are here to build His kingdom.⁹ We do what Jesus did. So, what does He want done today? I'll give you **4 things close to the heart of Christ and part of His mission on earth:**
 - **1.) Seek and Save that Which is Lost** – Jesus said that He came to seek and save that which is lost.¹⁰ We are not Messiahs. Only God saves¹¹. BUT, we are His ambassadors to do all in our power to present the gospel and present people to Christ that He might save them.¹² Look at how hard Paul worked to bring the gospel to people. Look at the ways that he would try to gain an audience whether that was through simple presentation, through debate, through intellectual means, or through power evangelism.¹³ He was determined to save whoever could be saved. We are called to do the same thing.

⁷ Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

⁸ Eph 3:20

⁹ John 4:34

¹⁰ 1 Tim 1:15

¹¹ Acts 2:21; 4:12

¹² Acts 11:14; 16:30-31;

¹³ 1 Cor 9:19-23; 10:32-33; 1 Thess 2:9

- **Lk 19:10** – “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
- **We are the primary voice boxes of God today¹⁴ - Ro 10:14–15** – “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”
- **2.) Defeat the Works of the Devil¹⁵** – Jesus said that He came to destroy the works of the devil and that meant that what the devil meant to tear down we build up. The devil seeks to ruin and destroy. We seek to save and restore. This may be in spiritual warfare of prayer. This may be in the transformation of our culture. This may be stopping direct attacks on God’s people in persecution. It has a lot of faces, but the bottom line is not letting the enemy win.
 - **72’s Power over the Enemy - Lk 10:17–19** – “The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”
 - **How is Jesus Still Shutting the Devil Down? Through Us - 1 Co 15:24–26** – “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”
 - **Wartime Mentality - Eph 6:12** – “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
- **3.) Replace Lies with the Truth** – Jesus was known for speaking the Truth with authority and we should be known for the same thing. This world is full of opinions and most of them are wrong. We have the Word of God. We have the Truth that God revealed to us. It’s our job to get that Word out to all of God’s creation so that they can know what we know. Part of that is helping others unlearn bad perspectives and to learn what God really says.
 - **2 Ti 2:24–26** – “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”
- **4.) Set People Free¹⁶** – Our world is full of people addicted, suffering, bound and terrorized both by a broken world (world, flesh) and by a literal enemy (devil). Jesus said that He sets people truly free and it’s our job to not only proclaim that message but to **help people find out HOW they can find that freedom. Until everyone is free, our job is not done.**
 - **Jn 8:36** – “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

¹⁴ 1 Cor 1:21; 15:2; 1 Thess 2:13, 16; 1 Tim 4:16

¹⁵ Heb 2:14

¹⁶ John 10:10

- **Jesus Our Example** - Ac 10:38 – *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”*
- **It’s still for Today** – We are the continuing Church from the book of Acts. We are that same book for TODAY. We are indwelt by the same Spirit, empowered by the same Spirit, saved by the same Spirit and equipped by the same Spirit. We are just doing it in a modern setting.
 - **Followers Do It Too** - Jn 14:12 - *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”*
- **A Warning** – It would be great if everyone who got saved suddenly became healthy and mature, but that doesn’t happen. When we get saved, we are still quite a mess, and the Lord goes into overtime to transform us in a million ways to be mature and strong in Him.¹⁷ So, when we are made children of God and ambassadors of Christ and given that power and authority, **it’s critical that we learn how to use it properly, or else we are going to hurt someone.** The Power of God is no joke.

God’s POWER requires UNDERSTANDING and STEWARDSHIP

Lesson

- **The Importance of the Book of Acts**
 - **What the Church Can LOOK Like** - We call ourselves the Church of Jesus Christ. We call ourselves the Body of Christ. We talk about being a FAMILY. We wax long and eloquent about what these things mean theoretically and theologically but the one thing we lack the most is an example of what it looks like PRACTICALLY. **How does it look at ACT like the Church?** What does it look like to live out the reality of being the Body of Christ? What does it mean to be a Spiritual Family? Without this book we would continue to struggle. But here we have this incredibly detailed account of how the early Christian church began and what it looked like on a day to day basis.
 - **How The Gospels Left Off** – We know that the gospels talked about Jesus’ earthly ministry and in the end each one of them talked about his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. But the 3 synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke) all included **Jesus telling His followers to continue doing the work He started them to do.** But each one added something unique to Christ’s command.
 - **Great Commission** - Mt 28:16–20 – *“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

¹⁷ Eph 4:11-16; Phil 1:6

- **Luke's Addition: Promise of Power** - Lk 24:48–51 – *“You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.”*
- **Mark's Addition to the Great Commission & Promise of Power (weird details)** - Mk 16:14–20 – *“Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” ¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”*
 - **Side note** – you'll notice a comment in the ESV that says that the final chapter of Mark is not included in all the earliest manuscripts. It seems that perhaps a copyist or commentator added in the final words. It doesn't contain really new information per se, but a few added details. All the main concepts were included in other gospels, so we know it's relatively legit.
- **What was that going to look like?** – What did the Great Commission with supernatural power of the Holy Spirit look like practically? **That's THIS BOOK!**
- **Understanding the Context** – Context, Context, Context
 - **How you read a book**, the perspective you bring to it, the bias you read into it, changes everything. It's critical that we get the right context BEFORE we start breaking it down. What we'll find about this book is that there are some things we already knew but there is a lot we don't. And there's a lot we assumed we knew but we were shockingly off.
 - **Who wrote it and why** – Thankfully we know a lot about the author, recipient, and purpose of this book. The **author is Luke**, the historian and physician who traveled with Paul the Apostle. The Book of Acts is **Volume 2 to Luke's Gospel** being Volume 1. It's the continuation. The **recipient** was his friend Theophilus.
 - **When did he write it?** – It was likely written between **AD 62-64**, which would be about 30 years after Christ was crucified. So, the events recorded in the book are really fresh to Luke, who seemed to have been taking notes the whole time.
 - **How the Book is Organized** – From a 30,000 foot view, the Book of Acts, which is actually called the Acts of the Apostles, is the continuation of 'what's next' after Jesus left the planet and left the ministry in their care. **Jesus told them that the gospel was going to go all through Judea** (Jerusalem/South Israel), through **Samaria** (the rest of Israel) **and into the rest of the known world** (initially the Mediterranean region). The

book **chronicles that spread**. At first we see Christianity is primarily a Jewish thing, but quickly the Gentiles (non-Jews) get involved. That shifts the focus into how the gospel spread outside of Israel and the book starts to record the salvation and **ministry of Paul the Apostle by chapter 9** and follows him until the end in chapter 28.

- **The Special Elements of Acts**

- **Baby Church** – **The entire book ONLY covers a span of approximately 30 years** (likely 33AD-61AD). Jesus was gone and He left seemingly without a lot of warning, although He tried to tell them over and over. They were caught off guard and now they were reeling. Thankfully Jesus showed back up and told them to wait because He had more for them, and He taught many things over the 40 days Post-Resurrection. But still they were in shock. Now they were on their own and it became abundantly clear that Christianity was not over, it was just beginning. And that meant they needed to grow up fast. But what we read is them stumbling through getting their footing. Think of the Book of Acts a little bit like a **baby moose** trying to stand up. There is **no believer or leader that is older in the Lord than 3 years!** They are all babies! A lot of them are still young adults.
 - **Do we really want to go back here?** – there was a HUGE movement in the church back in the 90's that highlighted the Ancient Church. Everyone wanted to go back to being the Church that we see in the Book of Acts. Although I know what they meant, they wanted to **recapture the purity, the power, and the passion, it's a terrible idea**. The Church changed and grew for a reason. The early Church was a **MESS!**
 - **Acts Should be Our Ground Floor** – so many people through the last 2,000 years talk about wanting to go back to the Early Church, but in my opinion we should see Acts as our ground floor. **Acts was how it BEGAN, not what it was BECOMING**. We should be able to stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, learn from their mistakes, embrace their role modeling and discover what MORE that God wants for His people.
 - **The Growth of Christianity** – some scholars believe¹⁸ that at the end of the 1st century (100's), there were fewer than 10,000 Christians in the Roman Empire (of course some would be outside of that but not many due to the influence of the Empire). By AD150 that number quadrupled to 40,000. By end of the 2nd Century (200's), it multiplied by 5, to 200,000. And it only exploded from there. That's only 270 years after Christ died. Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire c. 312AD. That means that it was **less than 300 years when Christianity became world dominant**. Incredible!
 - **Some key elements of Christianity that were learned AFTER the Book of Acts** – We take it for granted that everyone knew everything about everything in the Bible. But that's not true. **When Jesus left this earth to be at the right hand of the Father in heaven, He left A LOT of Questions**. He said that He was going to **give us the Holy Spirit** who would reveal more of the

¹⁸ <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/evangelistsandapologists/irenaeus-gnosticism-gaul-erasmus-persecution.html>

details and explain more of how things are supposed to work. Do you realize that it was quite a long time AFTER this book that we figured out the following elements of Christianity?

- **155AD: How Church Works (Justin Martyr)¹⁹** – The earliest recording of what a church service looked like in detail came from Justin Martyr’s 1st Apology published in 155AD where he wrote to the Roman Emperor arguing that Christianity was real and good and should be considered a blessing to the Roman Empire, not persecuted. In this treatise he records that the church service was: 1.) regional Christians gathering on Sunday; 2.) Scripture is read; 3.) The church “President” preaches/teaches on it. 4.) congregational prayers are lifted up. 5.) Communion elements are presented up front & President prays. 6.) some singing. 7.) Communion elements are passed out to the people and taken. 8.) Tithes and offerings are collected. The President distributes to the needy among them.
- **Understanding the Trinity²⁰** – we use the term Trinity a lot in today’s church, but that concept wasn’t fleshed out fully until hundreds of years after Christianity launched (419 years to be exact). Tertullian coined the term Trinity in 200AD²¹ but it wasn’t fully understood and affirmed until 451AD (250 years later).
 - **200AD Term** – Trinity term used by Tertullian
 - **c. 210AD 3 Connected** – Origen²² first speaks of the 3 hypostases in the Trinity (Father, Son & Holy Spirit of God) and first uses homoousios ‘of one substance’.
 - **325AD & 451AD – Understanding & Affirming the Dual Nature of Christ – The First Council of Nicea²³** was held in 325 AD. It was called by Emperor Constantine I. It addressed the heresy of Arianism that said Christ was not divine but a created being. In that council they agreed with the term ‘*homo ousios*’ (“of one substance”) talking about the equality of the Son with the Father. They coined the phrase, ‘begotten, not made’. Unfortunately, the battle continued on until the Council of Chalcedon.
 - **Augustine of Hippo (354-430AD)** – born in North Africa, converted to Christianity at the age of 33 (under St. Ambrose in

¹⁹ Justin Martyr was a philosopher and well trained. He got saved around the age of 35 and got ‘on fire!’ He moved to Ephesus and began writing Christian apologetic materials and Christian Philosophy. He was ultimately beheaded along with his disciples in Rome at the age of 65. (100-165AD). <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/evangelistsandapologists/justin-martyr.html>

²⁰ <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/trinity/trinity-history.html>

²¹ <https://www.christian-history.org/the-trinity.html>

²² <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/origen/> Origen (185-254AD) born in Alexandria Egypt and died in Tyre Phoenicia. Considered my many to be the most important theologian and biblical scholar of the early Greek church. He wrote a synopsis of 6 versions of the Old Testament (Hexapla) – created to debate rabbis who only believe Hebrew was authoritative. He was famous and rubbed shoulders with the greats of his time. He wrote an immense commentary on the gospel of John, along with many other writings. He was imprisoned and tortured in his later life, but survived and died several years later. His biggest contribution was the exposition of the whole Bible and his apologetic work.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Origen>

²³ <https://www.britannica.com/event/First-Council-of-Nicaea-325>. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-28/325-first-council-of-nicea.html>. It brought 220 bishops from around the world who worked for 2 months on all of this. The main driver of fully eradicating the heresy was the church father Athanasius

Milan), and became bishop of Hippo in 396AD (age of 42). He is considered by many to be the greatest early Christian thinker and theologian after the Apostle Paul himself. He wrote on grace, on the Trinity and lots of other doctrines. His works dominated medieval Christian thought²⁴. His works on predestination influenced John Calvin.

- **451AD Fully Man; Fully God Locked: Council of Chalcedon**²⁵ – 4th ecumenical council of the Christian Church. Held in 451AD. Verified and agreed that Jesus was completely and fully God. Fully man, fully God. Combined two natures in one person.
- **381AD: Affirming the Equality of the Holy Spirit** – The 1st Council of Constantinople²⁶ - The second ecumenical council of the Christian Church, held in 381AD. They declared the Trinitarian Doctrine of the equality of the Holy Spirit with the Father and the Son.
- **Understanding the Apostles Creed**²⁷ (600+ years later) – At Bridgeway we teach a class on the Apostles Creed which is kind of the normally accepted statement of faith for mainstream Christianity and has been for over 1500 years. But we forget that while its infancy form may have begun in Rome around the 3rd or 4th centuries²⁸, the final form that we use wasn't complete until the 6th or 7th century in France! What we take for granted as simple basics didn't get locked down until about 600 years after Christ died.
- **Other Major Movements in Christianity to be considered:**
 - **Charismatic vs. Conservative Debate: 172AD Montanist Movement begins** – it was the first Pentecostal vs. Conservative debates. The Montanists believed in prophecy and the charisma and felt they had words from the Holy Spirit. Women were allowed to be leaders. The church father Tertullian²⁹ was a member of this group. Tertullian was the first Christian to write in Latin, a brilliant apologist. He was the first one to use the term "Trinity". They were eventually shunned by the main orthodox church.

²⁴ More than five million words of his writings have survived and can be studied.

²⁵ Brought together 522 bishops from around the world. Presided over by Emperor Marcian, in modern-day Turkey. It approved the Creed of Nicea and other creeds and documents related to the humanity/divinity of Christ. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Council-of-Chalcedon>

²⁶ Only Eastern Bishops were invited to this one. 150 showed up. It was called by Emperor Theodosius I. They affirmed the Nicean Creed. <https://www.britannica.com/event/First-Council-of-Constantinople-381>

²⁷ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Apostles-Creed>; <https://www.logos.com/grow/the-apostles-creed-its-history-and-origins/>

²⁸ The verbal form seems to be used in the 2nd century but the first written form was AD 341. Ambrose refers to it in 390 so it was somewhat well used. The first final form of the creed is recorded in a Latin tract in the 8th century. It wasn't fully adopted by the Church of Rome until Charlemagne recognized it in the early 9th century.

²⁹ Tertullian was born in Carthage (Tunisia; North Africa) c. 155-160 AD. He was highly educated. He moved to Rome for more education but moved back to North Africa. and got converted to Christianity. He wrote a LOT. He was passionate, witty and fiery. He spent most of his time writing on apologetics (defense of the faith). He was the first Christian to write Christian works in Latin. He's been called "the Father of Latin Christianity" and "The founder of Western Theology". He wrote the first Christian book on Baptism. He wrote a lot on how Christians should conduct themselves in life. He joined the Montanist (new prophetic) movement in 210 leaving the orthodox church to some degree. He was a moralist more than a philosopher. (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Tertullian>; <https://www.learnreligions.com/tertullian-biography-4586412>)

chase anything but the Holy Spirit. There are weird things in the Book of Acts and sometimes the Holy Spirit does weird stuff. But we aren't interested in weird for weirds sake. **We want All that God wants and nothing He doesn't.** Amen?

Conclusion

- **Luke's 2 Books (Him, Us)** – in the Gospel of Luke, he writes what Jesus *began* both to do and to teach until the day when He was taken up to heaven. In His second book, Acts we see how Jesus continues to act and teach, now through the Spirit and then through Believers today.
- **NEXT WEEK: Acts** – we are going to start one of the most fascinating books of the Bible you'll ever read. Here we go everyone!
- **Let's pray** God's anointing over this year and over us as we learn and grow in Him.