

May 12, 1977

Acts 1:1-12

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I was talking to a man last week who told me of a seminary that was founded a few years ago out in the western part of this country, founded because other seminaries were moving in an un-believing direction, and that seminary he spoke of is standing for the Word of God. I don't believe there is any unbelief. But this man who was taught there for a number of years and who has just retired said, Now the tendency was toward emphasixing philoosphy and psychology and all sorts of human ideas. He tells that the Bible is sort of being shoved back into a corner. That happens in institution after institution. It can happen in our own lives if we allow human idea, human thoughts, human observa-tions, human experiences, good though they may be to crowd the Bible into a secondary place. That is our primary source of knowledge and we must keep learning from it all through our lives. Jesus' teaching continues through the Word, and there is much ~~x~~ in the Word that may not have been clear to people== in the past, but if our Lord tarries as circumstances develop we will see how par-ticular things in the Bible just fit the situation as they have come. How it gives us what we need to meet new situations. He continued to do and to teach.

He continued to do through his disciples -- His power He gives to us. We read in John 14:12, Verily verily I say unto you he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also and greater than these shall he do because I go unto my Father." He does not mean we can do greater miracles than He did. He does not mean we can give greater teachings than He did. Certainly the greatest things that could ever be done was what was done by Jesus, who is God Himself. But He means that we would be able to reach out far further than He did during His earthly life, and we would be able to extent His influence to a great wide area, while the greater part of His activity was confined in that little land of Palestine. So the outreaching of the work we are to do, through it He accomplishes even greater works than He accomplished during His earthly life.

Thus, the Acts is what He continues to do and to teach. In His power through us, His life in our, and His teaching by us.

Now, second we look at this phrase in v. 2 "to whom also He showed himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs." I believe that is important. Jesus showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs. We should never overlook the value of evidence. It has been said the resurrection(of Christ) is the best authenticated fact in History. The evidence for it is as complete as any evidence for any event that has ever occurred in the whole history of the world. That Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. That He walked about and talked with His followers during those 40 days. Many infallible proofs. There are those who say we should not look for proofs, we should not look for evidence. We should simply believe. Now it is true that faith believes. This is tremendously important and vital. We must believe what God says because we have confidence in Him, and we know we can trust Him. But He gave us minds and He wants us to use them.