

# Shuffling? Jogging? or Running Hard?

"(v.1) In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach (v.2) until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. (v.3) During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

(v.4) Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.

(v.5) John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

(v.6) So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?'

(v.7) He replied, 'The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. (v.8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

(v.9) After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. (v.10) As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. (v.11) 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go.'"

Acts 1:1-11—(NTL)

❖ The patient Pacemaker and his subject (v.3)

❖ Braking God (v.6)

"Then the Lord said to him, 'No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir. Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, 'Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!'"

Genesis 15:4-5

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."—Ephesians 3:20

❖ Can I get a witness? (v.8a)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.  
And you will be my witnesses."

❖ Total exposure (v.8b)

"Telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea,  
in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

"Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'  
Matthew 28:16-20

❖ It's a now thing. (v.10-11)

"As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!'"  
Acts 1:10-11

"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. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as your helmet the confidence of our salvation.

For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

I Thessalonians 5:4-11