

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

God's Training Manual for His Church

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Acts

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Acts

Looking at it with new eyes.

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Why?

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Why?

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But sanctification is difficult, sometimes painful.

God's Training Manual for His Church

Acts

Looking at it with new eyes.

Why?

Because many Christians are not satisfied with Christianity as usual, the status quo.

For most believers, salvation is wonderful.

But sanctification is difficult, sometimes painful.

And living the John 10:10 life is extremely frustrating.

God's Training Manual for His Church

Acts

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And we miss the part about His Kingdom.

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And we miss the part about His Kingdom.

But in the book of Acts, Jesus commands His followers to declare war on the kingdom of darkness.

God's Training Manual for His Church

Acts

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After all, what's the purpose of the power He gave His disciples and later the church?

But there are some other things we also miss.

God's Training Manual for His Church

Acts

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One, we miss the power (*dúnamis*) ministries in Acts.

God's Training Manual for His Church

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One, we miss the power (*dúnamis*) ministries in Acts.

Two, we miss the missionary zeal.

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In Acts, God's training manual for His church,
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Let's take a macro view of the book.

God's Training Manual for His Church

God's Training Manual for His Church

56%

God's Training Manual for His Church

56% 38%

God's Training Manual for His Church

56% 38% 6%

God's Training Manual for His Church

56% 38% 6%

1

God's Training Manual for His Church

56% 38% 6%

1 – 12

God's Training Manual for His Church

56% 38% 6%

1 – 12 – 70

God's Training Manual for His Church

56% 38% 6%

1 – 12 – 70 – 120

God's Training Manual for His Church

56% 38% 6%

1 – 12 – 70 – 120 – 500

God's Training Manual for His Church

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1 – 12 – 70 – 120 – 500 – 620(?)

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1 – 12 – 70 – 120 – 500 – 620(?) – 3,000

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God's Training Manual for His Church

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The theme of Acts is found in Acts 1:8.

God's Training Manual for His Church

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“But you shall receive (what) power (how) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and (what) you shall be witnesses to Me (where) in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

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Acts 1:8

Now watch the growth of the church, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in a hostile, threatening environment.

Growth

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Acts 1:15 – 120 in the Upper Room

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Acts 2:41 – Three thousand added at Pentecost

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Acts 8:12 – Samaritans came to Christ

Growth

Acts 18:8 – A ruler of the synagogue became a Christian along with his household

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And this is only the beginning.

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Acts 18:8 – A ruler of the synagogue became a Christian along with his household

Acts 19:20 – The word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed

And this is only the beginning.

Plus, remember the commitment and cost for each one who followed Christ compared with us today.

Power (*dúnamis*)

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Acts 2 – At Pentecost, 3,000 were attracted to the Gospel through the miracle of tongues

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Acts 5 – Believers were added when Peter's shadow healed some and demons were cast out

Power (*dúnamis*)

Acts 8 – The Gospel broke through to the Samaritans because of the miracles done through Philip

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Acts 13 – The proconsul believed when Paul had a power (*dúnamis*) encounter with Elymas the sorcerer

Power (*dúnamis*)

Acts 19 – The Word of the Lord spread through Ephesus when demons were cast out through handkerchiefs blessed by Paul

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Yet these signs pointed to the Lordship of Christ, both then and today.

The Kingdom

The Kingdom

Most of the preaching of Jesus was about
the Kingdom.

The Kingdom

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First, the message of John the Baptist:

The Kingdom

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Matthew 3:1-2

The Kingdom

Most of the preaching of Jesus was about the Kingdom.

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In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

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Next, the message of Jesus:

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Matthew 4:17

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From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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Matthew 4:23

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Most of the preaching of Jesus was about the Kingdom.

Then, the message of Jesus, now with power:
And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

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Matthew 10:7

The Kingdom

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Finally, the message of the disciples, also with power:

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.

Freely you have received, freely give.”

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And it is a declaration of war on the kingdom of Satan.

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And it is a declaration of war on the kingdom of Satan.

Let me explain.

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

The message of the Kingdom begins the book of Acts
and ends the book of Acts.

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

The message of the Kingdom begins the book of Acts
and ends the book of Acts.

To whom He (Jesus) also presented Himself alive after
His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by
them during forty days and speaking of the things
pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3

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Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented
house, and received all who came to him,
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Acts 28:30-31

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The Kingdom of God is present, first and foremost, wherever Jesus is acknowledged and served as King. The Kingdom is not *of* this world, but is *in* this world.

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

The Kingdom of God is present, first and foremost, wherever Jesus is acknowledged and served as King.

The Kingdom is not *of* this world, but is *in* this world.

It is, for now, essentially a spiritual Kingdom, but it has tangible, visible manifestations (see Matt. 5-7).

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It is also both present and future (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

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Let's look at the future Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

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Then comes the end, when He (Jesus) delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power (Satan's realm).

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

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And after that,

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For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

And after that,
a “new heaven and new earth” – Rev. 21:1.

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

Until that happens, we are living in the kingdom of darkness controlled by Satan.

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

Until that happens, we are living in the kingdom of darkness controlled by Satan.

But that was not God's original intention.

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

The Garden of Eden

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

The Garden of Eden

And now...?

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

The Garden of Eden

And now...?

We know that we are of God, and the whole world
lies under the sway of the wicked one.

1 John 5:19

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

The Garden of Eden

And now...?

We know that we are of God, and **the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**

1 John 5:19

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

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Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

And now...?

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

And now...?

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds **the god of this age** has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

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And now...?

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And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

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“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought
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If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself.
How then will his kingdom stand?”

Matthew 12:25-26

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For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

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So, What Do We Do?

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“In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

(described as) Your will be done

(to what extent) on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

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“And do not lead us into temptation,
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For Yours is the kingdom and the power
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Amen (so be it, let it be so).”

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When Jesus taught us to pray, it was a declaration of war against the evil one and his kingdom.

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Remember how Jesus described the Kingdom?

Luke 4:17-21

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And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah.
And when He had opened the book, He found the
place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
because He has anointed Me

- (1) To preach the gospel to the poor;
- (2) He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
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(4) and recovery of sight to the blind,
(5) to set at liberty those who are oppressed;
(6) to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”
Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

And He began to say to them,
“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

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You see this in the pages of the book of Acts.

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Back to Acts

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We are called to be soldiers in His war.

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All that is required of us is faith.

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And a willingness to serve Him in His army.

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Then let's learn how to go to war with the enemy by following our King, the Lord Jesus.

