Kids Bit…Father’s Day.

Part 1)…

Ephesians. 37 times. En-Theos…’enthusiasm.’

What are we enthusiastic for…? [list]

What are we less enthusiastic about…?[list].

How much time do we spend doing each? [most mundane]

I wish I had spent more time ‘be’ing instead of ‘do’ing.

Being with some ONE instead of doing something.

2 points really….

1) If they’re still around, (mine isn’t), make time to spend with them. This applies to you younger ones upwards as well as us older one’s downwards.

2) Think about your perfect heavenly Father. Make time to spend with Him. 20 mins in the morning? Journaling evening? Or even Praying while you’re painting!

Not just talking ‘at’, but talking ‘with.’ That means listening.

The closer you get the better the relationship…cos He is perfect!

Do you remember walking on your Dad’s feet? How much closer than that can you get?

Remember en-theos / enthusiasm. Father God will live IN you if you’ll live IN Him.

Acts 1:1-8 (again!!!) To Wit to Woo!!!

Message/Might/Mission/Mandate

We have bought the idea of many around that the church is quite irrelevant, a not at all an important segment of society. That view is absolutely false.

**Mat 16:18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

The name Peter (Gk., Petros) means “rock” or “rock-man.” In the next phrase Christ used petra (upon this rock), a feminine form for “rock,” not a name. Christ used a play on words. He does not say “upon you, Peter” or “upon your successors,” but “upon this rock”—upon this divine revelation and profession of faith in Christ.

Church is relevant in so many ways. A blunt reason is, it is built by Jesus. That means church is vitally relevant.

Acts is primarily telling us how the church exploded like dynamite, and how we should act as God’s church today. And it is no coincidence this happened at the arrival of God’s Holy Spirit on the Believers.

The story is told of the man who lived with his wife on the old family farm for years, barely scratching out a living. All the while, beneath the barren, dusty, almost uncultivated-able land was a rich supply of oil. While digging a water well, the farmer discovered this. Thus, he and his wife enjoyed a life of rich blessings. The farmer said, ‘*And to think, we lived here all these years without knowing how rich we were!*’

I intentionally focused last 2 months on the HS. Many of us cannot grasp how rich we are!

Many Christians are like that farmer. They go through their days, barely hanging on to their spiritual lives, living in their own weak ways;, scratching the dust, while beneath the surface, the power of God is ready to break free in their lives.”

This morning I want to start a new series on the book of Acts. The book of Acts describes a transition; **geographically,** from Jerusalem to Rome; **theologically**, from Israel to the church and **racially,** from Jews to Gentiles.

Acts is a record of power exercised in the midst of persecution; an account of life and health pouring from a living Christ into a sick society through the channel of obscure men and women, very much like you and me.

The author of the book of Acts was Luke the physician, and he begins with a reference to his already completed work on the life of Christ, which we know as the Gospel of Luke.  
“*The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, (2) until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen.”*

Obviously, then the Gospel of Luke was Volume One and Acts is Volume Two. Acts is the continued story of what to Jesus “began both do and to teach.” The book of Acts therefore is an unfinished book. It has never been ended, but is still being written. Luke picks up his account in Jerusalem with the closing hours of Jesus earthly ministry. It is the period between Jesus’ resurrection and His ascension into Heaven.   
In these first few verses Luke gives us Foundational Principles around which to build the church.  
  
I. The **MESSAGE** v. 3  
“**CHRIST IS RISEN”**   
“*to whom He 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.”*

The Greek word for "proof" here is a word that includes the idea of being convincing -- *infallible*, as the King James Version has it. Luke from the very beginning established that Christianity is a religion based on the historical facts.

William F Albright started to out to prove ‘critical assessment’, that the details in the Bible were incorrect. The Critical Assessment movement became the Biblical Archaeology Movement!

First and foremost is the fact of the miraculous resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The resurrection will be demonstrated by many convincing proofs and once proven it is proof of everything else that matters. Briefly 4 categories of proof -   
  
1st) The Disciples **Saw** Him  
He appeared to them during forty days. In fact Luke is the only writer of Scripture who tells us that Christ’s post-resurrection ministry covered forty days. The word here is one from which we get our word, *ophthalmia*, i.e., the word for the eye, or literally, the eyeball. If we were to use the modern vernacular, what Dr. Luke says is, these disciples "eyeballed" him for forty days. They saw him again and again, not merely once, but many times during this period. Each time he looked exactly the same.

In fact on at least 10 different occasions Jesus appeared to the disciples, history leaves no doubt about his resurrection. The first five sightings took place on the first day when he He arose again, the other five took place form time to time during the forty days that followed…

He appeared to Mary in the Garden (Jn 20:11-18)   
Women by the Wayside (Matt 28:9-10)  
Disciples on the Emmaus Road (Lk 24:13-32)  
Simon Peter in the late afternoon (Lk 24:34)  
Disciples in the Upper Room (Jn. 20:19-23)

Again to the Disciple so the Thomas might see and believe (Jn. 20: 24-29)  
Seven on the shore of Galilee ( Jn 21:1-14)  
To some 500 gathered on a hillside (1 Cor. 15:7)  
To James ( 1 Cor. 15:7)  
To the disciples on the Mount of Olives as he ascended ([Acts 1:9-12](http://www.sermoncentral.com/bible/NIV/Acts-1.asp?passage=Acts%201%3A9-12&ScrptureHover=sermon-31041-Living%20Up%20to%20the%20Name))  
  
So…point 1, the disciples, hiding and fearful, eyeballed the Risen Jesus.

2nd) The Disciples **Heard** Him. In v)4 (and many more!) we read in red ink…

Act 1:4 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.

3rd) The Disciples **Touched** Him  
In order to convince his followers of the reality of His resurrection body, Jesus allowed them to feel Him with their hands. The reality of His risen body was tried and proven by the normal means of sensory perception. Jesus reappeared to the disciples with express purpose of allowing Thomas’ doubts to be stilled ([John 20](http://www.sermoncentral.com/bible/NIV/John-20.asp?passage=John%2020&ScrptureHover=sermon-31041-Living%20Up%20to%20the%20Name): 24-29).

Joh 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Joh 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

4th) The Disciples **Fed** Him  
The ultimate proof was, "he ate with us."

Act 1:4 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.

**Act 10:41** Peter explains to the home of Cornelius…*He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead*.

They saw the food disappear. It is surely terribly hard to get a hallucination to eat! Luke is saying, "*This is the proof; he ate with us, so we know he is alive*."

John the apostle goes even beyond this and declares that the ground of faith and life in Jesus Christ is the historical evidence that Jesus was seen, was heard, and was handled during those post resurrection appearances. “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life (2) the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us”* [1 John 1:1-2](http://www.sermoncentral.com/bible/NIV/1-John%201.asp?passage=1%20John%201%3A1-2&ScrptureHover=sermon-31041-Living%20Up%20to%20the%20Name) (NKJV)

Conclusion…

The end result of all of these appearances was that the apostles came to believe absolutely in the reality of the resurrection of Jesus. That assurance gave them the boldness to preach Christ to the very people who had crucified him. It a belief in the reality of the resurrection that turned the apostles from being fearful sceptics to bold and powerful witnesses.

Throughout the centuries many attempts have been made to disprove the resurrection of Jesus, but none has ever been successful. In fact, oftentimes the ones attempting this have themselves becomes convinced by the evidence and have become Christians. (William F Albright – Anthony Flew).

He is a living Savior! Mohammed died and is still dead - Budda died and is still dead, Confucius died and is still dead. But when the 2 Mary’s visit in Mat 28 we read…

Mat 28:1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

Mat 28:2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Mat 28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

Mat 28:4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Mat 28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

**Mat 28:6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

When Believers go to the tomb of Jesus we hear the glorious message, “*He is not here; for he is risen, as he said.”* (Matt. 28:6)   
He showed himself to Saul on the Damascus Road and sent him out a flaming evangelist. Many people still claim to have a visual encounter with Jesus today. But lets stick to Scripture!!!

II. THE BELIEVER’S **MIGHT** vv. 4-5  
“THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

“*And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; (5) for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*  
Jesus had previously promised in [John 14:16-18](http://www.sermoncentral.com/bible/NIV/John-14.asp?passage=John%2014%3A16-18&ScrptureHover=sermon-31041-Living%20Up%20to%20the%20Name),

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever--

Joh 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

This now is the fulfilment of that promise. In v) 8, the word for HS power is *Dunamis*!

“The Greek word *dunamis* entered the English language when the Swedish chemist and engineer Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833-96) made the discovery that became his fortune. He discovered a power stronger than anything the world had known up to that time. He asked a friend of his who was a Greek scholar what the word for ‘explosive power’ was in Greek. His friend answered, ‘*Dunamis”.* Nobel said. ‘Well, I am going to call my discovery by that name.’ So called his ‘explosive power dynamite.”

There is nothing that Father God is that the HS is not ☺

III. THE BELIEVER’S **MISSION** vv. 6-7  
“ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM”  
*“Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (7) And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.”*  
FF Bruce writes; “*The disciples were not at all clear about the nature of the kingdom with Jesus had come to establish. “Their idea of the Messiah was a soldier like Judas Maccabeus…, who was going to be strong enough to drive out any occupying military forces. In these days, the land was occupied by the Romans. So the Jews were looking for a Messiah who would expel the Romans and set up the earthly kingdom of David. The disciples expected to reign with him in this kingdom*.” …

These people are missing the higher level of God. Thinking in human terms that always fall down to ‘how does this affect me, me, me!!!

It was this kind of expectation that gave rise to the occasion which the mother of James and John approached Jesus asking,   
“*Grant unto one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right hand and the other at your left hand in your kingdom*.” (Matt. 20:21).  
We find them again at this time asking in effect, “*Are you at this time, at last, after all this waiting on our part, going to restore the kingdom?”*  
Jesus said, “*It is not your business to know when I am going to establish my kingdom, it is your task to* ***be my witnesses in the world.***

**IV. THE BELIEVER’S MANDATE v. 8  
“MAKE DISCIPLES”**

(8) *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.”*

Here the Lord laid down in the clearest possible terms the mandate for those who are to follow him. The mandate of the church must of necessity be a Missionary Church. Missio…sent out.

Jesus told the disciples that they must wait upon the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The word translates “power” here is the Greek word *dunamis.*

The disciples at this point in the book of Acts were in a transitional period in the birth of the church.

The *dunamis* HS power is with every true Believer.

I support this through 3 scriptures;

**1Co 12:13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body--whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**Rom 8:9** You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

1Co 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

The early disciples had to wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to come. We do not!!! It is available now. It is available for all believers. Yet, the Holy Spirit and His power must be sought.

I am not talking about holding your breath and clenching your fists, but relational commitment to and with God.

We must desire and work for Him. How many of you are really seeking to be empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Most Christians seem to think they are doing God a favor by showing up to church once a week on Sunday morning. How many of you have heard someone say they did not have the gift of evangelism? That’s ok because there is no “gift of evangelism!”

There is a calling in Ephesians 4:11, but for me that is your Billy Graham stuff…

**Evangelists** are those who preach the good news of salvation. They are divinely equipped to win the lost to Christ. They have special ability to diagnose a sinner's condition, probe the conscience, answer objections, encourage decisions for Christ, and help the convert find assurance through the word. Evangelists should go out from a local church, preach to the world, then lead their converts to a local church where they will be fed and encouraged.

Jesus said, “You are my witnesses.”

This is not shouting into a microphone at Wembley…this is engaging with others appropriately and planting a little seed. My point is not just with your church hat on, all the time.

Part 2)…

Premier / UCB last night…told her daughter to behave the right way. Started with not swearing and from this careful choice of words developed into actions. Challenging bullies, being generous, listening, eventually got friends to ask her how she was consistently nice to be around? She replied “I go to church”. Now 5 of her friends go to Sunday school/ And guess what…some of the Mums and Dads have started to come!

So why have I called this ‘To Wit To Woo?

“Our English word witness comes from an Old English word we do no use very much anymore but we used it in Elizabethan times and afterwards. It is the word wit. ‘To wit’ means ‘to know’ A ‘wit’ is ‘a knowledgeable person.’ So a ‘witness’ of some who knows something and testifies to it.”   
We have heard the words “*you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth,”*

Everyone listening hear today “knows”. You have heard the GN. I have just told you Christ is Risen, that you have his *Dunamis* in you, your job is to tell others.

So that To Wit. I finish with this question…to WOO? Get it! Who are you going to wit…to woo!