

Pastor Allen Jackson



I. Luke & Acts

Luke 1:1-4 (NIV[®])

¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Acts 1:1-2 (NIV[®])

¹ **In my former book**, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

A. Presence of the Holy Spirit

1. Conception

Luke 1:34-35 (NIV[®])

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you**, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

2. Jesus as Baptizer

Luke 3:16 (NIV[®])

¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit** and with fire.

3. Descent of the Spirit

Luke 3:21-22 (NIV[®])

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and **the Holy Spirit descended on him** in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

4. Jesus, "led by the Spirit"

Luke 4:1 (NIV[®])

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,

B. Holy Spirit & the power of God

Luke 4:14-16 (NIV[®])

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

II. Radical Perspective of Gospels

A. Time & Eternity

Luke 6:20-23 (NIV[®])

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said: "**Blessed are you who are poor**, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ **Blessed are you who hunger now**, for you will be satisfied. **Blessed are you who weep now**, for you will laugh. ²² **Blessed are you when men hate you**, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because **great is your reward in heaven**. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

B. Love your enemies—merciful (judge & condemn)

Luke 6:35-38 (NIV[®])

³⁵ But **love your enemies, do good to them**, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great,

and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.** ³⁷ "**Do not judge**, and you will not be judged. **Do not condemn**, and you will not be condemned. **Forgive**, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ **Give**, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Leviticus 20:4-5 (NIV[®])

⁴ If the people of the community close their eyes when that man gives one of his children to Molech and they fail to put him to death, ⁵ I will set my face against that man and his family and will cut off from their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molech.

C. Forgive — “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

D. Give — “Give, and it will be given to you.”

Luke 21:1-4 (NIV[®])

¹ As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ **All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.**"

III. Clothed with Power

Luke 24:44-53 (NIV®)

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**" ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but **stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.**" ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for making a new life possible for me. In Christ I have been delivered from hopelessness and despair. Forgive me for resisting the Holy Spirit. Grant me a greater awareness of His presence. I choose to cooperate with You — to say no to ungodliness, to love my enemies, to show mercy, to forgive, to give generously. Clothe me with the power of your Spirit, allow Jesus to be evident in all I am. Amen.

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