

**Acts 1: Understanding of the Church**

**I. The Book of Acts Is the Continuation of Christ's Work (vv. 1–2)**

A. The Gospels versus Acts

1. The former book (Gospel of Luke)

- the Lord in the flesh
- Person (Head)
- under limitation

This book (Acts)

- the Lord in the Holy Spirit
- Church (Body)
- in unlimited fullness

B. Different in form, unchanged in essence

1. The Son is the manifestation of the Father, the Church is the manifestation of the Son — God appears in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16)

**II. The Last Forty Days: The Requirement to Enter the Commission Is Knowing the Glory Revealed (vv. 3–14)**

A. The assurance of the resurrection — the direct experience of God's appearance

B. The teaching of the forty days — the correct and full understanding of God's kingdom

C. Waiting for the promise of the Father — the baptism of the Holy Spirit (vv. 4–8)

1. Waiting is not only a matter of time but also of attitude

- a) the baptism of power
- b) being witnesses throughout the world

D. The vision of ascension governs all

1. The Lord is the heavenly way

2. The meaning of ascension

- a) opening the heavenly way: the church is connected with heaven
- b) passing through and overcoming all tests

3. The glory of ascension covers all

4. Angels proclaimed the blessed hope — He will return in the same manner in which He went into heaven

E. Prayer: Preparation for entering into God's reality

1. Praying in one accord
2. Praying continuously

**III. Days Prior to Pentecost and the Disciples' Last Actions (vv. 15–26)**

A. Peter's speech concerning Judas — a tragic ending for a person who rejected and betrayed the Lord

1. Judas lost his share in the glorious ministry

2. His homestead became desolate — the result of serving his belly

B. Choosing Matthias as an apostle

1. Casting lots — a historical practice, not a model to be followed

2. Prayer and testifying of the resurrection — this principle still stands firm today