



Awaken to the Movement!

# Awaken to the Movement

- God has done amazing things.
- God is the same and his purposes have not changed.
- God is still at work.
- Let's seek this wonder-working God with all of our hearts.

# *The Rise of Christianity*

Christianity *did not* grow because of miracle working in the marketplaces (although there may have been much of that going on), or because Constantine said it should, or even because the martyrs gave it such credibility.

# *The Rise of Christianity*

It grew because Christians constituted an intense community, able to generate the “invincible obstinacy” [against paganism] that so offended the younger Pliny but yielded immense religious rewards.

# *The Rise of Christianity*

And the primary means of its growth was through the united and motivated efforts of the growing numbers of Christian believers, who invited their friends, relatives, and neighbors to share the “good news.” . . .

# *The Rise of Christianity*

Let me state my thesis: *Central doctrines of Christianity prompted and sustained attractive, liberating, and effective social relations and organizations.*

# *The Rise of Christianity*

I believe that it was the religion's particular doctrines that permitted Christianity to be among the most sweeping and successful revitalization movements in history. And it was the way these doctrines took on actual flesh, the way they directed organizational actions and individual behavior, that led to the rise of Christianity. (208, 211)



# Acts 1

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

# Acts 1

<sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

# Acts 1

<sup>4</sup> 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.

# Acts 1

<sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

# Acts 1

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

# Acts 1

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

# Acts 1

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

# Acts 1

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

# Acts 1

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

# Acts 1

<sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”



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ἐν Πνεύματι βαπτισθήσεσθε Ἁγίῳ

Baptized IN the Holy Spirit

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- Do I not have the Holy Spirit?
- It was just for the first hearers.
- Do I have God's power whether I feel powerful or not?

# If I don't feel powerful, what's up?

- Do I not have the Holy Spirit?
- It was just for the first hearers.
- Do I have God's power whether I feel powerful or not?
- Am I interfering with the work of the Holy Spirit by not witnessing?

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# Acts 1 and Luke 24

- Disciples looking for Jesus where he once was but is not more.
- Two men in bright clothes show up
- Ask the followers, why are you looking for him?

# Today

- Let's get serious in waiting on the LORD

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# Today

- Let's get serious in waiting on the LORD
- Let's live baptized IN the Holy Spirit

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# Today

- Let's get serious in waiting on the LORD
- Let's live baptized IN the Holy Spirit
- Let's walk in his power and telling the story by his power

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# Today

- Let's get serious in waiting on the LORD
- Let's live baptized IN the Holy Spirit
- Let's walk in his power and telling the story by his power
- Let's look for Jesus where he is.



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