

Re-Start Week 1: Restarting the Right Way - Acts 1:1-11

David Bawks - Pathway Community Church (March 7, 2021)

Acts 1

¹In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

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

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.”

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

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“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.”

Over the last two millennia we’ve witnessed a pattern of extreme change and disruption that happens about every 500 years. I’ve been reading a book that explores this pattern in greater detail called *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tinkle. She draws from the observation of this trend from the Anglican Bishop Mark Dyer, who said that “every five hundred years the Church feels compelled to hold a giant rummage sale” (Tinkle, *The Great Emergence*, 16). Another way to put that is this: “about every five hundred years the empowered structures of institutionalized Christianity, whatever they may be at the time, become an intolerable carapace [or shell] that must be shattered in order that renewal and new growth may occur” (Tinkle, *The Great Emergence*, 16).

- **We are living in a unique time period in which we have an unparalleled opportunity to reach the world for Jesus.**
- 1) **Let’s restart the right way.**
 - 2) **Restarting can only be done in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

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