



ACTS



CONTEXT

In the first book, when Jesus was physically present, the Holy Spirit acted through him. In this second book, after the ascension, Jesus would continue acting through the Holy Spirit.

Justo Gonzalez

THE TENSION OF WAITING

40 Days

Baptized by the Holy Spirit

Transitions:

1. Letting go of the old
2. Embracing new beginnings
3. Living in-between

**The Holy Spirit empowers us
with a new imagination for life
in the kingdom of God**

Mental Maps

He said to them, “How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken! Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:25-27

Then He told them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And look, I am sending you what My Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.”

Luke 24:44-49

Remembering Forward

**Our mental maps of reality are
often dangerous wrong or
incomplete**

Identity
Ambition
Community
Power

The deepest reality of life in the Spirit depicted in the book of Acts is that the disciples of Jesus rarely, if ever, go where they want to go or to whom they would want to go. Indeed the Spirit seems to always be pressing the disciples to go to those to whom they would in fact strongly prefer never to share space, or a meal, and definitely not life together. Yet it is precisely this prodding to be boundary-crossing and border-transgressing that marks the presence of the Spirit of God.

Willie Jennings

We need to allow the Spirit to transform our imagination for what's possible right now in the kingdom of God.

The book of Acts beckons us to a life-giving historical consciousness that senses being in the midst of time that is both past and present and pulls us toward a future with God in the new creation...He wants his readers to see a past unfolding in a future and making intelligible a present. In this regard, his history is now.

Willie Jennings