

## Acts 1:1-5

**“Doing Nothing” (i.e. Waiting Prayerfully While Doing Nothing Overt That Seems “Significant”) Can Sometimes Be Exactly the Right Thing to Do**

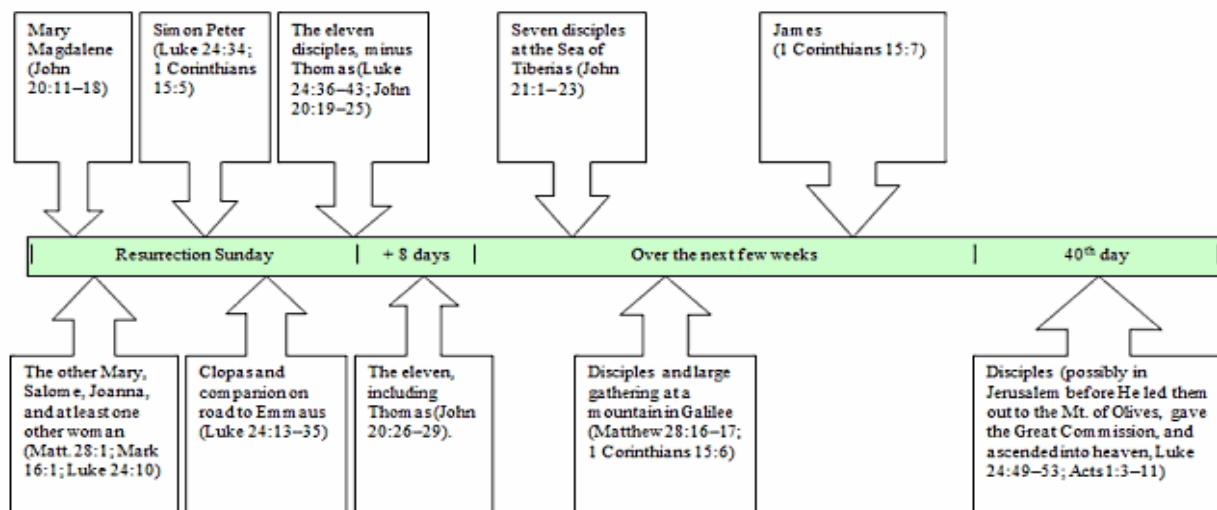
### Acts 1:1-3

**Effective Christian Living/Service Normally Involves Planning Our Work and Then Working Our Plan (as God Permits/Directs)**

As the Human Author of the Book of Acts, God the Holy Spirit superintended what Luke wrote BUT without stifling Luke’s initiative/creativity or personality as he composed this book.

As we stressed last week, these verses are the Prologue to the Book of Acts, and very much parallel to the Prologue to the Gospel of Luke:

**The first account I composed** [the Gospel of Luke], **Theophilus** [a Roman official who was in position to influence the outcome of the Apostle Paul’s upcoming appeal before Caesar], **about all that Jesus began** [notice the word “began”] **to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up** [the Ascension] **to Heaven**, [what do these italics mean?] **after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the Apostles whom He had chosen** [including especially the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 and the commands of Acts 1:7-8]. **To these** [the Apostles] **He also presented Himself alive after His suffering** [SAS validated by the LBSR], **by many convincing proofs** [not just one appearance to one person who was pretty sure they had seen someone who “looked like Jesus” from a good distance on a foggy night], **appearing to them over a period of forty days** [the period between the resurrection and the ascension] **and speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God** [the righteous expression of God’s rule/reign].



## Acts 1:4-5

### God's Will for the Christian's Life Is Not Just a What, It is Also a When/a How

- The NT Greek word translated "baptism" (Βαπτίζω)  
GENERALLY means: to immerse SPECIFICALLY means: to dip in order to dye something a new color to identify it with its owner and/or with its purpose
- The Baptism of John the Baptist (Luke 3:16/Mark 1:4)  
A baptism in water for identification....not salvation per se  
(a baptism...of/as an outward sign of repentance...for forgiveness of sins)
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit-spiritually "immerses" believers into the NT Church-the Spiritual Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13). Normatively, this happens at the moment of saving faith BUT for those UNIQUE individuals who lived through the transition of being OT believers to being NT believers it happened on the Day of Pentecost in 33AD (Chapter 2 of Acts).

## TAKE THIS TO HEART

**"Doing Nothing" (i.e. Waiting Prayerfully While Doing Nothing Overt That Seems "Significant") Can Sometimes Be Exactly the Right Thing to Do**

In This Fallen World/with our Finite Personal Resources "Nothing" is Sometimes the Only Thing We Can Do. BTW: "Only" Praying **IS** Doing Something Significant