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MAKING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:18-20 NLT**

¹ In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. ⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” ⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **Acts 1:1-8 NLT**

- You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- We start here, in our Jerusalem.
- It’s about obedience, not comfort.
- Mission trips don’t replace what we do here, they stoke the flame.

THE BELIEVERS FORM A COMMUNITY

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47 NLT**

- It was not by eloquence of speech or some church growth strategy that the Gospel advanced, but through the power of a Spirit-filled people who lived out their faith with sincerity and sacrifice.
- They devoted themselves, that means they stuck to their commitment.
- The early church was a movement of people—empowered by God’s Spirit, courageous in the face of risk, and convinced that the Gospel was for everyone.

THE HOLY SPIRIT-EMPOWERED ACTIONS OF THE CHURCH HAVE NOT ENDED...

³⁰ For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, ³¹ boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him. **Acts 28:30-31 NLT**

- Paul preached with clarity and urgency.
- Not everyone believed — but the message kept going.

WHAT LESSONS, THEN, CAN WE DRAW FROM ACTS?

- The Gospel is for all people.
- Obedience and dependence on the Spirit are essential.
- Boldness in the face of adversity.
- The power of community.
- Every believer has a role.
- It’s our turn to Carry the Flame.