

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 1:1-8 | LESSON SUMMARY

From Jesus → Early Church

ACTS 1:1, "In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach..." (ESV)

- Theophilus: name translated "God-lover," so possibly not a specific person
- Authority: though Jesus has ascended and is no longer physically present, Luke seeks to provide clarification for His followers. In returning to heaven, he has not left us—His presence is deposited in us through the Holy Spirit.

Authority & Power

ACTS 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV)

- The "power" described here has historically been misappropriated to refer to some kind of territorial claim or rightful conquest.
 - Roman Empire → Early Church
- Corrective Lens: alternate perspective, African & Jewish scholars' definition of power and the book of James.



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- What does “power” mean: Paul tells us that we don’t fight flesh and blood warfare.
 - “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12, ESV)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Mercy Amba Oduyoye, *Hearing and Knowing*, Walter Elwell, *Encountering the New Testament*

