

Message Three

**Having Christ Inwardly as Our Life  
and Outwardly as Our Power and Authority**

Scripture Reading: Col. 3:4; 1 John 5:11-12; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8

- I. The book of Acts is a record of a group of believers who are resurrected and ascended with Christ and who have Christ within them as their life and upon them as their power and authority—Eph. 2:5-6; Col. 3:4; Acts 1:8.**
- II. If we would know the intrinsic significance of the book of Acts, we need to have Christ inwardly as our life—John 11:25; 1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4:**
  - A. The Triune God has been processed and consummated in order to dispense Himself in Christ as life into our tripartite being; life is therefore the processed and consummated Triune God dispensed into us and living in us—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
  - B. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life—John 5:26; Col. 3:4:
    1. For Christ to be our life means that He is subjective to us to the uttermost—John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.
    2. It is impossible to separate a person from the life of that person, for a person's life is the person himself; thus, to say that Christ is our life means that Christ has become us and that we have one life and living with Him—John 14:6a; Phil. 1:21a.
    3. With Christ as the believers' life there are three characteristics, which distinguish it from the natural life:
      - a. This life is a crucified life—Gal. 2:20.
      - b. This life is a resurrected life—John 11:25.
      - c. This life is a life hidden in God—Col. 3:3-4; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18.
  - C. The fact that Christ is our life is a strong indication that we should take Him as life and live in our daily life for the church life—Col. 3:4; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21a; Acts 2:42, 46-47.
    1. Christ must be our life in a practical and experiential way; day by day we need to be saved in His life—v. 4; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 5:10.
    2. The new man is the spontaneous issue of our taking Christ as our life and living Him—Col. 3:3-4, 10-11.
- III. If we would know the intrinsic significance of the book of Acts, we need to have Christ upon us as our power and authority—Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8:**
  - A. We should not move and act according to knowledge, doctrine, teaching, rules, regulations, forms, or traditions but according to the Christ who is upon us as our power and authority—Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 4:33.
  - B. The outpouring of the Spirit of power is economical and is for our ministry and work—2:2-4, 33:
    1. The promise of the Father in Luke 24:49 concerns the outpouring of the Spirit as power from on high for the believers' ministry economically.

2. Regarding the Spirit of power, we need to put Him on as the uniform, typified by the mantel of Elijah—Luke 24:49; 2 Kings 2:9, 13-15.
3. The same Holy Spirit who was breathed into the disciples to be the Spirit of life to them essentially came upon them to be the Spirit of power to them economically—John 20:22; Acts 1:8.