

**Outline of the Messages
for the International Chinese-speaking Conference
January 25-27, 2009**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOOK OF ACTS**

Message One

**Continuing to Be Witnesses of the Resurrected and Ascended Christ
and
Continuing to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit Inwardly and Outwardly**

Scripture Reading: John 5:17; Acts 1:8, 22; 4:33; 6:3; 10:39-40; 13:52; 28:31

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I also am working.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

v. 22 Beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which He was taken up from us, one of these should become a witness of His resurrection with us.

4:33 And with great power the apostles gave testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

6:3 But brothers, look for seven well-attested men from among you, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint over this need.

10:39-40 And we are witnesses of all the things which He did, both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem; whom also they did away with by hanging *Him* on a tree. This One, God raised on the third day; and He has made Him manifest.

13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

28:31 Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, unhindered.

I. The book of Acts actually has not ended; rather, it has been left open so that more may be added—28:31:

- A. God is always advancing and never stops; if we know this and believe in this, we will praise the Lord—John 5:17; Acts 16:25.
- B. The book of Acts is a book without an ending because this book is still being continued; although the written record no longer continues after chapter 28, God's work has been going on—v. 31:
 1. The reason for this must be that the work of the Holy Spirit in preaching Christ for His propagation, multiplication, and spread through the believers of Christ has not yet been completed and needs to be continued for a long period of time—1:8; 2:22-36; 28:30-31.
 2. The evangelical work for Christ's propagation, multiplication, and spread is according to God's New Testament economy for the producing of many sons for God, that they might be the members of Christ to constitute His Body for the carrying out of God's eternal plan and the fulfillment of His eternal will—Rom. 8:29; 12:5; Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; 3:11.
- C. If, as living members of Christ, we live by Him and for Him and depend on Him in everything, we will be in the "twenty-ninth chapter" of Acts—John 6:57; 15:4-5; Rom. 14:7-8; 2 Cor. 5:15.

II. If we would be in the continuation of the book of Acts, we need to be witnesses of the resurrected Christ—1:8, 22; 2:24, 32; 4:2, 33; 10:39-40; 17:3, 18; 22:14-15; 23:11; 26:16:

- A. In Acts the apostles and disciples were the Lord's witnesses, His martyrs—1:8; 22:20.
- B. The apostles were witnesses of the resurrected Christ, bearing witness of His resurrection—1:22; 3:13-15.
- C. In his narration of the Lord's move on earth, Luke emphasizes the testimony of the Lord's witnesses—4:33; 10:39-40:
 - 1. To be a witness is to testify of one's personal experience of the Lord; in order to testify, we need experiences of seeing, participation, and enjoyment—22:14-15.
 - 2. The apostles were witnesses of the resurrected Christ not in word only but also by their lives and actions—3:1-16.
- D. Paul was an outstanding witness of Christ; he was the kind of witness whom the Lord spoke about in 1:8:
 - 1. The resurrected Christ propagated Himself by coming into Paul and making him a living witness of Christ—22:15.
 - 2. Paul not only preached the propagation of Christ—he lived this Christ—9:21-22; 13:33-34; Phil. 1:20-21a.
 - 3. As one who lived Christ and was a living testimony of Christ, Paul was absolutely different from the Jewish religionists, the Roman politicians, and those in the church in Jerusalem—Acts 21:20-21; 23:14-15; 24:25-26.
- E. Satan could instigate the Jewish religionists and utilize the Gentile politicians to bind the apostles and their evangelical ministry, but he could not bind Christ's living witnesses and their living testimony; the more the Jewish religionists and the Gentile politicians bound the apostles and their evangelical ministry, the stronger and brighter their living testimony became—7:54-60; 28:23-31.

III. If we would be in the continuation of the book of Acts, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit inwardly and outwardly—2:17; 4:8; 6:3; 13:9, 52:

- A. The Scriptures clearly reveal to us that there are two aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit—the inward aspect for life and the outward aspect for power—John 20:22; Eph. 5:18; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8.
- B. Every believer in Christ should experience both aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit, being filled with the Holy Spirit inwardly and outwardly:
 - 1. According to its usage in Acts, *pleroo* denotes the filling of a vessel within, and *pletho* denotes the filling of persons outwardly.
 - 2. The disciples were filled (*pleroo*) inwardly and essentially with the Spirit (13:52) for their Christian living and were filled (*pletho*) outwardly and economically with the Spirit for their Christian ministry (9:17; 13:9).
 - 3. The inward filling Spirit, the essential Spirit, is in the disciples (John 14:17; Rom. 8:11), whereas the outward filling Spirit, the economical Spirit, is upon them (Acts 1:8; 2:17).
 - 4. We all must be filled inwardly with the Holy Spirit as life and be clothed outwardly with the Holy Spirit as power—Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 4:8; 6:3; 13:9, 52.

INTERNATIONAL CHINESE-SPEAKING CONFERENCE 2009

January 25

Hymns

271

- 1 Of the Spirit born in spirit,
As the sons of God indeed,
We possess the Holy Spirit,
Dwelling in us for all need.
Yet we still need more of Him, Lord,
That we may be full of Thee;
May Thou fill us with Thy Spirit,
Give us life abundantly.
- 2 Lord, we know the Spirit in us,
But of life Thy Spirit is,
That the riches of Thy fulness
We may share thru what He is.
Yet we still require Thy Spirit
As the power from on high,
That for all Thy work and service,
We may be equipped thereby.
- 3 Lord, baptize us with Thy Spirit,
Clothe us with Thy pow'r of might;
With this "mantle" of Thy power,
We may then the battle fight.
May Thy wind now blow upon us,
Giving us the tongues of fire,
That, as witnesses anointed,
We'll fulfill Thy heart's desire.
- 4 With the power of Thy Spirit,
Still we need the gifts to share,
That as members we may function
And Thy testimony bear.
By Thy Spirit's full outpouring,
Lord, impart the gifts we need,
That the building of Thy Body
With Thy blessing might proceed.
- 5 For Thy glory and Thy kingdom,
May Thou hear Thy Body's cry!
Now fulfill Thy holy purpose,
All our hunger satisfy.
May we all partake Thy Spirit,
Him apply in many ways;
His infilling, His outpouring,
And His gifts to share always.

203

- 1 In the bosom of the Father,
Ere the ages had begun,
Thou wast in the Father's glory,
God's unique begotten Son.
When to us the Father gave Thee,
Thou in person wast the same,
All the fulness of the Father
In the Spirit to proclaim.
- 2 By Thy death and resurrection,
Thou wast made God's firstborn Son;
By Thy life to us imparting,
Was Thy duplication done.
We, in Thee regenerated,
Many sons to God became;
Truly as Thy many brethren,
We are as Thyself the same.
- 3 Once Thou wast the only grain, Lord,
Falling to the earth to die,
That thru death and resurrection
Thou in life may multiply.
We were brought forth in Thy nature
And the many grains became;
As one loaf we all are blended,
All Thy fulness to proclaim.
- 4 We're Thy total reproduction,
Thy dear Body and Thy Bride,
Thine expression and Thy fulness,
For Thee ever to abide.
We are Thy continuation,
Thy life-increase and Thy spread,
Thy full growth and Thy rich surplus,
One with Thee, our glorious Head.

132

- 1 Lo! in heaven Jesus sitting,
Christ the Lord is there enthroned;
As the man by God exalted,
With God's glory He is crowned.
- 2 He hath put on human nature,
Died according to God's plan,
Resurrected with a body,
And ascended as a man.
- 3 God in Him on earth was humbled,
God with man was domiciled;
Man in Him in heav'n exalted,
Man with God is reconciled.
- 4 He as God with man is mingled,
God in man is testified;
He as man with God is blended,
Man in God is glorified.
- 5 From the Glorified in heaven
The inclusive Spirit came;
All of Jesus' work and Person
Doth this Spirit here proclaim.
- 6 With the Glorified in heaven
Is the Church identified;
By the Spirit of this Jesus
Are His members edified.
- 7 Lo! a man is now in heaven
As the Lord of all enthroned;
This is Jesus Christ our Savior,
With God's glory ever crowned!

12

- 1 O God, Thou art the source of life,
Divine, and rich, and free!
As living water flowing out
Unto eternity!
- 2 In love Thou in the Son didst flow
Among the human race;
Thou dost as Spirit also flow
Within us thru Thy grace.
- 3 Though we in sin and wickedness
Went far from Thee apace,
Yet in the Son Thou didst redeem,
Bestowing life and grace.
- 4 Though we have often slighted Thee,
Thy Spirit often grieved,
Yet Thou dost still as Spirit come
As life to be received.

- 5 Thou as the Spirit in the Son
Hast mingled heretofore;
Thou wilt thru fellowship anoint
And increase more and more.
- 6 The love of God, the grace of Christ,
The Spirit's flowing free,
Enable us God's wealth to share
Thru all eternity.
- 7 The Father, Son, and Spirit—one,
So richly care for us;
Thy love with one accord we sing
And e'er would praise Thee thus.

500

- 1 Oh, what a might! Oh, what a strength!
God wrought to raise Christ from the dead.
Far above all at His right hand,
O'er all to us He is the Head.
All this great pow'r is to the Church
That she o'er all her foes may tread.
- 2 Oh, what a fact! Oh, what a bliss!
That I of Christ a member am.
With all the saints I blend as one
And share the life of the new man.
Joined to our great ascended Head,
We'll be the Church of His own plan.
- 3 Oh, what a breadth! Oh, what a length!
The height, the depth unsearchable!
Christ the Lord is unlimited,
So vast, immense, immeas'nable.
All that He is and all He has
Is now our life unspeakable.

(Repeat the last two lines of each stanza)

2009 International Chinese-Speaking Conference

Banner 1

D D7 G D G

As wit-ness-es of the res - ur-rec - ted and as - cend - ed Christ bear-ing a liv-ing tes-ti-mo-ny

6 A D E7 A

of Him, we need to be filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it in - ward - ly and out - ward - ly.

Banner 2

9 D G D/F# F#7

In our min - is - try to pro - pa - gate the res - ur - rec - ted Christ as the king - dom of

12 Bm G#dim D/A Bm

God, we must be faith - ful to the heav - en - ly vis - ion — the

15 Em A7 Em A7 D

vis - ion of God's New Tes - ta - ment, God's New Tes - ta - ment e - con - o - my.

Banner 3

19 G D G

We need to con - tin - ue to live in the u - nique move of God's e - con - o -

23 D G D G E7

my by tak - ing the way of mov - ing in the move of the Spir -

27 A D G D D/F# G D/A A7 D

it and of hav - ing the Spir - it mov - ing in our move.

Banner 4

32 D G D

We need to con - tin - ue to live in the di - vine his - to - ry

36 G G#dim D/A Bm Em

with - in the hu - man his - to - ry for the spread - ing and build - ing up of the

39 A7 G E7 A7 D

church as the cor - p'rate man - i - fes - ta - tion of Christ.