

Acts 1:1-14

Questions

1. Which of the four Gospels is also written to Theophilus?

Luke

2. Who is Theophilus or who could the name of Theophilus represent?

Many theories circulate as to the identity of Theophilus. Theophilus could have been a Christian who wanted more information about Jesus and the early church. Theophilus could have been an unsaved person wanting more information about Jesus and the early church before making his decision to follow Christ. The Gospel of Luke refers to Theophilus as "Most Honorable" meaning that Theophilus could have been a judge waiting to hear Paul's case or a lawyer who would represent Paul in Rome. Theophilus means "friend of God" and could have been written to a person or group who wanted to remain secret because of persecution facing the early church.

3. What did Jesus do in the 40 days following His resurrection?

He appeared to his followers as proof of His resurrection. He taught His followers, specifically about the kingdom of God.

4. What does the phrase "Kingdom of God" refer to?

Our idea of the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven tends to be incomplete. We tend to think of the phrase having to do with salvation and Heaven. The phrase has everything to do with salvation and Heaven. But it's so much more.

Dwelling: *The Bible is all about God dwelling with us. A key concept of the Bible is God with us. In the Garden of Eden, God walked with Adam and Eve (God with us.) The OT tabernacle and temple was God's dwelling place on earth (God with us.). Jesus became flesh and dwelt with us. Jesus is Immanuel which means God with Us. The Holy Spirit is God dwelling in us, God in us. In Revelation, Heaven is described as the dwelling place of God. God will be with us. And we will be His people.*

Dominion: *Dominion refers to the unique calling to do the work of God. Just like with dwelling, the concept of dominion is seen throughout the Bible. In Genesis 1:28, God said that Adam and Eve had dominion over the animals of the earth. OT Israel was a*

nation of priests. As the church, we have a unique calling. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." In Heaven, we will be joint heirs with Jesus in glory.

5. In verse 4, what did Jesus order the disciples to do?

Do not leave Jerusalem. Wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit

6. In verse 5, Jesus said that his followers would be "baptized" in the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

In other places in the Bible, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit refers to being filled with the Spirit or controlled by the Spirit so that we can do the work of God and live out the Christian faith.

7. Why is it ironic that the disciples ask about the restoration of Israel in verse 6?

The disciples were still not clued in as to what Jesus was really about. The disciples still saw Jesus as a God appointed king to restore the nation of Israel from Roman occupation. Jesus came to restore all nations and all people through his death on the cross. The Holy Spirit would give the disciples clarity.

8. What is the relationship between the followers of Jesus being witnesses for the Gospel to the ends of the earth and the power of the Holy Spirit?

This has got to be one of the strangest scenes, ever, doesn't it? He gives them the largest assignment you could ever imagine, to a group of fisherman and carpenters and tax collectors who had never been more than 50 miles outside their hometown! Never had a more important assignment been given to a less qualified group of people.

— JD Greear

But the followers of Jesus are able to carry out the assignment through the power of the Holy Spirit.

9. After Jesus ascended into Heaven, what did the disciples do? (See Verse 14)

They waited in Jerusalem and prayed.

10. Sometimes, God wants us to wait. Why is it hard for us to wait on God?

Humans have become more and more impatient. Fast food is no longer fast enough. We get bored waiting.

Let us note one other thing. The apostles were told to wait for the coming of the Spirit. We would gain more power and courage and peace if we learned to wait. In the business of life, we need to learn to be still. 'Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength' (Isaiah 40:31). Amid life's surging activity, there must be time to receive.

— William Barclay