

## How to Study the Bible 5: Observation

### Introduction:

- This is the step where we ask the question: What do I see?

***Psa 119.18** Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*

- The ability to see more in Scripture is a skill you can improve upon through **PRACTICE** and prayer.
- Read the Bible carefully and ask the right questions.
- Let's practice this with a single verse of Scripture: Acts 1.8

***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.*

### A. Look for Important Words

1. The first important word in verse 8 is: \_\_\_\_\_

- This word indicates a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Forces us to consider the \_\_\_\_\_

- Before the verse:

***Acts 1.1** In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,*

- Notice that Acts begins with a discussion.

***Acts 1.6** So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

***Acts 1.7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*

***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.*

- **After the verse:**

**Acts 1.9–11** *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

3. **The second important word in verse 8 is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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.*

- **Who are these people?**

**Acts 1.1–2** *In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to **the apostles whom he had chosen**.*

- **What do we know about them?**

4. **The main verb in verse 8 is:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **What tense is it?**
- **What are they going to receive?**

### **B. Look for Cause and Effect Relationships**

*“when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”*

- **How do these words help our understanding?**
- **Who is the other person mentioned in this verse?**
- **What words tell us where the power will come from?**
- **Notice the relationship between these two phrases:**
  - **Cause:** *you will receive power*
  - **Effect:** *and you will be my witnesses*
- **Being a witness for Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of receiving God’s power.**

- Whose witness will they be?

### C. Define important words

- What is a “witness”?

### D. Look for Supporting Phrases

- Where will they be witnesses?
- What do we know about Jerusalem?
- Why is Jerusalem mentioned first?
- How is Judea related to Jerusalem?
- How is Samaria related to Judea?
- How far are they to travel as witnesses?

### E. Relate this Verse to the Book as a Whole

- Do the apostles follow this pattern?
- Acts 1.8 is the OUTLINE for the book of Acts
  - Jerusalem – Acts 2-7

**Acts 2.5** *Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven*

**Acts 2.14** *14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.*

- Judea – Acts 8

**Acts 8.1** *And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

**Acts 8.4** *Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*

- **Samaria – Acts 8-12**

**Acts 8.14** *Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,*

- **The End of the Earth – Acts 13-28**

**Acts 13.4** *So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.*

## **F. There is \_\_\_\_\_ to Observation**

- **We've noticed at least 25-30 observations just in one verse of Scripture!**
- **We haven't even studied a paragraph, or a chapter, or even the whole book of Acts!**
- **Yet each time you read over it, you will notice more.**

### **Conclusion:**

- **Try it with:**

**Josh 1.8** *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

- **Remember, the main question is: What do I see?**
- **Pay close attention to important words and their relationship to other words.**
- **Ask lots of questions.**
- **Look at the context.**
- **Take lots of notes.**
- **Pray for eyes to see**