

Why Aren't We Living **Acts**?

How many of us can honestly say we have been living in the *Book of Acts*? If I am truthful to my own self, I have to answer that question with *a resounding I have not!* What sets the *Book of Acts* apart from the Gospels is the *Presence and Dependence* on the *Holy Spirit*. The *Holy Spirit* is mentioned over thirty times in *Acts*, many more times than anywhere else in Scripture. In *Acts* they *Worshipped the Father in Spirit and in Truth*: “*23But an hour is coming – it is here now – when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people as His worshipers. 24God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*” (*John 4:23-24*). In *Acts* there is no question that the order is first in *Spirit* and second in *Truth*, and not the other way around. I love that in Messianic Judaism we are totally *motivated and moved by truth*, and that is a good thing. But we must *first* act in *Spirit* and then in *Truth*, since the order of these in Scripture is also inspired. I believe we (including me) have been acting perhaps in *Truth first* and in *Spirit second*. No wonder the *Acts of Kol Simcha* record so far might be *one page* instead of *twenty-eight chapters*!

Are we full of the Spirit? *NO! NOT FULL!* I would say just a *WEE BIT FILLED!* Are we being effective for the Kingdom? *NOT VERY!* I have yet to see and experience anything close to the *Book of Acts* in me or in KS. Where is the breakdown? Not in the *Holy Spirit of Yah Adonai Our Elohim*, that's for sure. So it must be with us. This reminds me of a line in the Paul Newman movie *Cool Hand Luke*: *what we have here is a failure to communicate*. The line underscores the theme of miscommunication and misunderstanding between authority figures and those they govern. The captain (the warden) uses this phrase to highlight his frustration with Luke's defiance and inability to conform to the rules of the prison. This quote has since 1967 become iconic and is often referenced in discussions about communication breakdowns in various contexts, including workplace dynamics and management practices. Luke was a likable rebel and everyone was sympathetic to him, yet the whole premise of the sympathy is misplaced. The *Holy Spirit* has no problem communicating with us if we allow Him, but we on the other hand, have difficulty turning the listening to *Him* into doing (*shema*), assuming we even attempt hearing *Him*. Even a wee bit of the *Ruach Elohim*, if considered and acted upon, would yield a different result than what we have so far. Can you imagine if instead of a wee bit, we were *FULL OF THE SPIRIT!* I think we would generate quite a few more pages!

Scripturally we are also to become *Mighty in Spirit*. To be *Mighty in Spirit* is to know Him intimately and to experience the power of *Adonai Messiah Yeshua* in daily victory over the power of sin and the flesh. When we begin to grow in *Yeshua's* character, obedience, understanding, love, and faith, *we grow in maturity*. We begin demonstrating evidence of His life inside us by developing spiritual muscles that will make us *Mighty in Spirit*. When we are *Mighty in Spirit*, we will be able to better discern truth from error and will train you to live victoriously in personal lifestyle and character issues. When you are *Mighty in Spirit*, you will gain, utilize, and give true wisdom, which comes from above. When you are *Mighty in Spirit*, you will more consistently win in spiritual warfare through prayer and personal disciplines. Being *Mighty in Spirit* will enable you to send forth light instead of propagating darkness for the salvation and deliverance of many. Being *Mighty in Spirit* will enable you to send forth light instead of propagating darkness for the salvation and deliverance of many. When you are *Mighty in Spirit* you can demonstrate great faith, genuine love, exhibit practical creativity, mature wisdom, keen discernment and be joyfully enthusiastic about everything. When you are *Mighty in Spirit* you exercise and display *Holy Spirit's* expressions and are ready to let the *Spirit* manifest through you *any way He wishes to*.

Many of you have said *Hineni* to *Holy Spirit* and you meant it. *Hineni* is much more than a simple response to a call. *Hineni* is a **covenant response**. It is the response of a child of *Yah* to his *Abba*, and it emphatically declares: ***You have my full attention, and nothing is distracting me. Everything that I am and have is at your disposal.***

In the *Book of Acts* they never went about ***life as usual*** again. Everything they did was by prayer and the *Holy Spirit's* word of instruction, day by day, moment by moment. Is the phrase: “²⁸for ‘In Him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His offspring’ (Acts 17:28)” activated in you (and Me) yet? We want to walk with *Yah*, in *Yah*, for *Yah*, for *His Will*, *His Purposes*, being ***Awestruck, Honoring Heaven's Glory*** in me! We are to be ***Lost in the Wonder of His Glory*** and in the ***Hunger for His Presence***. Instead we have relegated “God” to our schedule, to our plans and desires. ***He's become someone in my back pocket just in case I need Him.***

Scripturally speaking we are to live in the *Book of Acts*, but is the *Book of Acts Living in Me*? As I evaluate us (me), what I do have is proof that this ***not happening*** in me, therefore I (we) have need to do my (our) first works (of repentance) over again and align myself with *Yah Adonai our Elohim* and *His Spirit* so that *His Name* can be made great again in my life, my congregation, my jurisdiction, my city or wherever the *Ruach HaKodesh* would lead!

Can we be completely honest with ourselves and *Messiah Yeshua* today and say ***Lord, thou knowest. WE in Kol Simcha need everything Yeshua*** purchased for us. Like the disciples, we need to admit to ourselves and to *Him* that we really need *Another Helper*, exactly like *He* said we needed and in the measure that *He* intended. In my opinion we need to ***ask the Father in Yeshua's Name AGAIN for Him to send us a full measure of the HELPER and ask with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength.*** Do you agree? I pray it be so... Let us appropriate THE resurrection **EXPERIENCE and POWER** and let us together with *His Spirit* go change the world! ***I invite you to let us pray, seek, tarry and worship!***