

Empowered!

Scripture: Acts 1–3

Introduction: According to CNN, 24-year-old Katina Shaddix was kidnapped by a truck driver and kept against her will for over a year. She left more than 100 messages in truck stop restrooms all over the country, saying, “Won’t let me out. Beating me, this is no joke!” While cleaning a restroom in Tennessee, maintenance worker Binford Aycock saw the message and called authorities who, using a global positioning system, traced the truck, arrested the driver, and set her free. People everywhere are sending out pleas for help, but we usually miss them. Acts 1, 2, and 3 shows us the sequence that empowers us to hear the pleas and help:

1. **The Lord Went Up** (Acts 1). This chapter tells of the ascension of Christ, His return to the throne of Glory.
2. **The Spirit Came Down** (Acts 2). This chapter tells how the Lord Jesus sent the promised Holy Spirit upon His people.
3. **The Church Went Forth** (Acts 3). Here we have the healing of the lame man, Peter’s sermon, heated opposition, and overcoming courage.

Conclusion: In a world in which Satan is holding so many people hostage, we must “go forth,” having the Lord as our Master and the Spirit in our hearts.