

Acts 1:1-5

What was or is your nick name?

Most of the nick names I have had come from my character or interests.

1. **Goose** because I ran like a goose.
2. **Steam train** because of my train interests and when I played soccer I had the habit of running over people.
3. Fast moving brick dunny (**FMBD**)- I was solid but fast

But **What is it we want to be known as?**

In this passage there are a couple of interesting things.

AC 1:1 In my former book, Theophilus,

- A. **Luke introduces the reason for writing the document.** (it's not so much a letter but a narrative history)

Theophilus was the reason he wrote his gospel and the story continues. (there was and is more to tell)

- B. **Theophilus has a meaning** –
Theophilus.

God lover

Theo=God
Philus= lover

- C. A question: who is Theophilus?

i. **Patron, maybe Luke was a slave and Theophilus was his owner.**

ii. **A colleague or his teacher or a respected leader, maybe Roman.**

iii. **Maybe Theophilus is a pseudonym, or a nick name.**

Wouldn't it be a great thing to be called. God lover. What kind of lifestyle does one have to have to get that kind of reputation?

So what do we get out of this?

What do you want to be known as?
A goose or a God lover.

It would be great for us to be known as God lovers – instead of this church or that church. It would be great to have that as a nickname because that is what we are like.

But the message of this passage is more than a nick name.

The passage and the document is about the Jesus message.

I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach.

He explains the book we call Luke was about Jesus life. And finishes as he says: **2 until the day he was taken up to heaven,**

But Luke does a little bit of teaching here to set up the Book of Acts.

after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Luke says that the Holy Spirit gave instructions to his followers. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is a big part of the Book of Acts. But Notice he takes the message a bit further. He reiterates the Gospel.

3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Jesus suffered dies and rose again

– remember –

Jesus became alive again and showed himself to people

– remember

Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God

– Remember.

Hey it is good for us too to remember the basis of the gospel – who Jesus is and what He did.

But the big point from this short passage is found in this next few verses.

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Wait for the gift – Wait for the Holy Spirit to be part of their lives.

The words here are interesting.

Baptised means to be immersed

And

Luke uses that word to describe the relationship between the Holy Spirit and God's people.

Immersed. Fully covered.

There are numerous times in scripture (some of which are in Acts) when we read baptize and we instantly link it with the ritual process yet the author could have been talking about this immersed in the Holy Spirit concept.

This Holy Spirit relationship is worded as a gift and it is described as an immersion, an all over wet concept.

We have to ask ourselves the question:

IS that how we see the Holy Spirit in our lives?

IS that how we feel the Holy Spirit in our lives?

IS that how we envisage the Holy Spirit's interaction with our Lives?

We are going to hear about the affects on those who were immersed in God over the next months.

Just to let you know.

This series is being shared with each congregation.

Sunday morning gets some of it,

Sunday night gets some of it

and

Church on Tuesday get some of it.

The idea is that the bits of Acts that are appropriate to that congregation will be preached to them. I have never done this before but we will see if it works. No two sermons will be the same, and there are some passages that different congregations don't get to look at. We'll see how it goes.

Feel free to attend the the other services or get the sermon notes on the church website.