

**THE BOOK OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES IS THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AFTER JESUS HAD RISEN, ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD UPON HIS FOLLOWERS.**

**IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT BOOK BECAUSE IT SHOWS US VERY CLEARLY THAT THE HEALING, TEACHING MINISTRY OF JESUS CONTINUES EVEN THOUGH JESUS IS NOT PHYSICALLY VISIBLE. IT CONTINUES BECAUSE JESUS PROMISED TO BE WITH US UNTIL THE END TIME.**

**SO WE MUST LOOK TO THE FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TO SEE AND TO EXPECT THAT MINISTRY OF JESUS TO BE PRESENT WITH US.**

**THIS IS SPELLED OUT VERY OBVIOUSLY IN THE WORDS OF JESUS TO THOMAS: 'BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET BELIEVE.'**

**IS THIS HOW I LOOK TO THE CHURCH TODAY?**

**DO I EXPECT TO FIND IN THE CHURCH, THE FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, THE CONTINUING WORK AND MISSION OF JESUS?**

**DO I LOOK TO THE CHURCH FOR TEACHING AND GUIDANCE? DO I LOOK TO THE CHURCH FOR THE CONTINUING HEALING TOUCH OF JESUS IN MY LIFE NOW?**

**THIS IS THE CHALLENGE OF JOHN'S WORDS TO US TODAY: "THESE SIGNS ARE RECORDED SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, AND THAT BELIEVING THIS YOU MAY HAVE LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME."**

**DO I FEEL LIKE I HAVE THIS LIFE IN ME NOW?**

**DO I LOOK FOR JESUS AT WORK IN AND THROUGH THE CHURCH TODAY? OR DO I SIMPLY STOP AT THE CHURCH, AND NOT WHAT THE CHURCH HOLDS OUT TO US?**

**JESUS, IN THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS, SAYS TO JOHN: "DO NOT BE AFRAID; IT IS I, THE FIRST AND THE LAST; I AM THE LIVING ONE."**

**WHEN I COME TO MASS DO I COME TO HEAR THE TEACHING OF JESUS? DO I COME TO EXPERIENCE HIS HEALING TOUCH IN MY LIFE, ESPECIALLY IN HOLY COMMUNION?**

**THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.**