

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

The Holy Spirit

Part 2

We find some of Jesus' last words to His apostles in Luke 24:49 *Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.* The Promise of the Father is the empowering work of the Holy Spirit which began in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. Some have sub-titled the book of Acts as "The Acts of the Apostles"; others have sub-titled it "The Acts of the Holy Spirit". In this lesson, we will travel with the apostles as they experience the work of the Holy Spirit.

DAY ONE: The Day of Pentecost

1. Luke is the author of both the Gospel of Luke and Acts. Acts is actually the sequel to the Gospel of Luke picking up where Jesus left off with His command to *tarry in Jerusalem*. According to John 7:39 (see also Acts 2:33) when would the Holy Spirit be *given*?
2. Jesus told the disciples to *go into all the world and preach the gospel* (Mark 16:15). Read Acts 1:8 and record the reason the disciples were to wait for the *promise of the Father*.
3. Read Acts 2:1-4 and summarize the event by writing a brief newspaper article.
Challenge: include the events of Acts 2:5-47 in your story.

- a. Peter, who had just weeks before denied that he even knew Jesus, after the Holy Spirit *fell* on Him, preached a bold sermon, explaining the behavior of those touched by the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room. Peter preached that the events were the fulfillment of *what was spoken of by the prophet Joel*. What did Joel say would happen? See Acts 2:17-21. Note: *last days* refers to the period between the resurrection and the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- b. What was the first fruit of Pentecost? see Acts 2:41

DAY TWO: Establishing the Church

1. Acts 4 gives us the account of the arrest of Peter and John. Finding no way of punishing them, the religious rulers released Peter and John, but not without first warning them not to *speak at all or teach in the name of Jesus*. Peter and John boldly refused and then went to their companions, reporting what had happened. Their prayer is recorded in Acts 4:29-30. What did they pray for?
 - a. What happened *when they prayed*? Acts 4:31
2. Read the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. What do these verses teach us about the Holy Spirit?

verse 3

verse 4 (in light of verse 3)
3. As the church grew, the needs grew. The apostles were not able to tend to the physical and spiritual needs of the people. The apostles knew they were not to *leave the word of God and serve tables* (Acts 6:2). They decided to seek out men to help them minister to the people. Note the requirements in verse 3.
 - a. Why are these requirements important for anyone who would represent the Lord?

DAY THREE: Falling on Believers

Today we will focus on the Holy Spirit *falling* on different groups of people. It is not our intention to draw any conclusions at this time, but to carefully view the events as the Bible recorded them.

1. Read the story of Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8:4-25 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Philip came to Samaria to preach the gospel to both men and women. What do verses 12,13 tell us about the response of the men and women, including Simon the Sorcerer?
 - b. What did the apostles in Jerusalem do when they *heard that Samaria had received the word of God?* verse 14
 - 1.) What were they sent to do? verse 15
 - 2.) Why? verse 16
 - c. What did Peter and John do? verse 17
 - 1.) What happened when Peter and John laid hands on them?
 - d. Summarize Simon's reaction and the apostle's response as recorded in verses 18-25.
 - 1.) Verse 18 begins with the words *And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given....* What do you think Simon saw?
2. Acts 10:24-48 records Peter's visit to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, a devout man who feared God with all his household. Cornelius, his relatives, and his close friends were waiting for Peter. Peter preached the gospel to them. What happened?
 - verse 44:
 - verse 45:
 - verse 46:
 - a. What was Peter's response? verses 47,48
 - b. Peter recounted the event in Acts 11. What did he say he *remembered?* verse 16

3. In Acts 19, Paul found some disciples in Ephesus. Record Paul's conversation with them. (verses 2-4)

Paul (v. 2)

Disciples (v. 2)

Paul (v. 3)

Disciples (v. 3)

Paul (v. 4)

a. What happened when Paul *laid hands on them*? (v. 6)
4. Review the events of Day Three. What are some similarities that you see?

- a. What are some questions that have been stirred?

DAY FOUR: Other Acts of the Holy Spirit

1. Today we will look at other references to the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. In each reference, underline or highlight the work of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 6:10 *And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.*
Acts 8:29 *Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."*
Acts 8:39 *Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.*
Acts 10:19 *While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you."*
Acts 11:12 *Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.*

Acts 11:28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 13:4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:9-11 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

Acts 16:7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 20:23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Acts 21:4 And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.

Acts 28:25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,

- a. Make a list of some of the things the Holy Spirit did.

DAY FIVE: Time to Reflect

1. The book of Acts is about the establishment of the church. The subsequent letters of apostles such as Peter, Paul, James, and John are about the building up of the church. The gifts evident in Acts are also evident in the letters of the apostles. However, the emphasis is different. Describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts.

2. Jesus told the disciples to preach the gospel, but to first wait for the *Promise of the Father*. What did you learn about this *Promise* from Day One?
3. Share something from Day Two that inspired or challenged you?
4. Assuming that, in all three events, the people involved were believers when the Holy Spirit *fell*, what thoughts were provoked in you from Day Three about:
 - a. Desiring spiritual gifts for the wrong reasons
 - b. The gospel being available to all people
 - c. Being saved, but not living in the fullness of all God has
5. What did you learn from Day Four about the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the believer?
6. In what ways has this lesson aroused you to a deeper need of seeking the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words,
but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,*

- 1 Corinthians 2:4 NIV