

4. An unveiled _____! Acts 1:5

5. Answerable questions!

Community Group Questions/Personal Study

Meditate on the following verses and ask yourself these two questions:

- Where would I be without the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do for me?

John 6:63	Romans 8:2	John 14:16-17
John 14:26	John 16:13	1 Corinthians 12:11
Galatians 4:6	Acts 4:31	Romans 8:26-27
2 Corinthians 3:18	Galatians 5:22-23	Romans 5:5
2 Timothy 1:7	Romans 8:16	Romans 15:13

Memory Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Repeat this verse out loud 4 times a day until next Sunday.

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

Author: The book of Acts does not specifically identify its author. From Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3, it seems that the same author wrote both Luke and Acts. The tradition from the earliest days of the church has been that Luke, a companion of the apostle Paul was the writer.

Date/Purpose of Writing: The Book of Acts was likely written around 61-64 A.D. The book of Acts gives the history of the Christian church and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as the mounting opposition to it. Acts serves as a transition from the Old Covenant of law-keeping to the New Covenant of grace and faith. The emphasis is on the importance of obedient disciples being empowered to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ.

- To **validate** the superiority of Jesus Christ
- To **commend** Christianity to every culture
- To **trace** the growth of Christianity through the early church
- To **show** Christianity as distinct from Judaism
- To **demonstrate** the power of the Holy Spirit
- To **build** unity and break down the barriers between Jews and Gentiles
- To **reveal** what happens when disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit
- To **exhort** believers to be bold witnesses for Christ
- To **challenge** Christians to engage a lost world with the gospel
- To **authenticate** the importance and impact of prayer

Key Verses: 1:8; 2:4; 2:38; 4:12; 4:31; 6:3 16:31; 17:6; 26:18

Brief Outline:

- Chapters 1-7 The Church **birthed** and established in Jerusalem
- Chapters 8-12 The Church **scattered** to Judea and Samaria
- Chapters 13-28 The Church **extended** to the ends of the known world

Major Themes:

- The **priority** of evangelism Acts 1:8
- The **baptism** of the Holy Spirit Acts 2:4;38
- The **importance** of fellowship Acts 2:42-47
- The **primacy** of truth Acts 2:42
- The **preeminence** of Christ Acts 4:12
- The **sovereignty** of God Acts 4:23-30
- The **impact** of prayer Acts 4:31
- The **place** of suffering Acts 8:2;16:22

Challenge for Today:

- Characterized by rugged individualism Acts displays the impact of **community**
- Where greed often reigns Acts shows the importance of **generosity**
- Where truth is relative Acts presents a church that based its life on God's **Word**
- That shuns apologetics Acts exhibits a church that persuaded people with the **truth**

Caution:

We must be cautious about how we apply the book of Acts because it is not primarily a doctrinal book. Because it is narrative/ historical we must carefully distinguish principles that are normative and those that are specific to certain situations.

Christ in Acts:

The resurrection and ascended Christ is the central theme of the gospel, sermons and defenses in the book of Acts. The OT Scriptures bear witness along with the Holy Spirit that Jesus is both Lord and Christ! Acts 2:22-36; 10:34-43

Practical Application:

God can do amazing things through ordinary people when He empowers them through His Spirit. God essentially took a group of **ordinary** men and used them to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6). God can and does do the same through us—changing our hearts, empowering us by the Holy Spirit, and giving us a passion to **spread** the good news of salvation through Christ by loving acts of kindness.

Part	Major personalities	Geographical regions	Ethnic groups
1	Peter and John	Jerusalem	Jews
2	Greek-speaking Jews: Philip and Stephen	Jerusalem, Samaria and Judea	Jews, Samaritans and an Ethiopian eunuch
3	Paul and Peter	Damascus, Judea, Antioch and Asia	Jews, God-fearing Gentiles and pagans
4	Paul the missionary	Europe and Asia Minor	Gentiles and Jews
5	Paul the prisoner	Jerusalem, Caesarea and Rome	Gentile rulers, Gentiles and Jews

- ▣ Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- ▣ Acts 2:4: "All they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit was giving them utterance."
- ▣ Acts 2:38 "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**."
- ▣ Acts 4:12 "And there is **salvation** in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
- ▣ Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to speak the word of God with boldness."
- ▣ Acts 6:3 "Therefore brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the **Spirit** and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."
- ▣ Acts 16:31: "So they said, 'Believe in the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"
- ▣ Acts 17:6 "These men who have **upset** the world have come here also."
- ▣ Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by **faith** in Me."

What Did Jesus Leave Behind?

Acts 1:1-5

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Introduction - Who is Jesus? Matthew 16:15

1. An unfinished _____! Acts 1:1-2
2. An undeniable _____! Acts 1:3
3. An undeserved _____! Acts 1:3