

## I. Acts 1

### A. The Promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1-5)

1. According to Luke, who was the source of Jesus' instructions, and who received them? (Acts 1:1-2)
2. Why should the apostles' Gospel writings about Jesus in the Bible be believed by readers today? (Acts 1:3)
3. What is "the promise of the Father," who told the apostles about it, and who is the promise for? (Acts 1:4-5)

### B. The Ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:6-11)

1. How did Jesus reply to those who asked him specific questions about the future, and what should we learn from his response? (Acts 1:6-7)
2. Luke uses multiple phrases to describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of Christians; in Acts 1:5, the Holy Spirit baptizes us and in Acts 1:8, the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Why does Luke use different phrases if he is describing the same experience? According to Acts 1:8, what is the proof that a Christian has received the power of the Holy Spirit?
3. Where and to whom did Jesus command the apostles to spread the Gospel? (Acts 1:8)
4. What did the ascension of Jesus prove to the apostles then, and what does it prove to us today? (Acts 1:9-11)

### C. Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas (Acts 1:12-26)

1. How many apostles are named who met together in the Upper Room? (Acts 1:12-13)
2. What was the historical role of women in apostolic ministry immediately following the ascension of Jesus? (Acts 1:14)
3. Did Mary the mother of Jesus remain a virgin her entire life, and what was her historical role immediately following the ascension of Jesus compared with her role in some settings today? (Acts 1:14)
4. Exactly how many believers were present in the Upper Room, and who took a leadership role among them? (Acts 1:15) Why was this significant for the individual and for the Church? (Luke 22:54-62; Matthew 16:18)
5. According to Luke, who was the Source of David's inspiration for writing so many of the Psalms? (Acts 1:16)
6. According to Luke, what happened to the apostle Judas Iscariot after he betrayed Jesus? (Acts 1:16-19)

7. According to Luke's retelling of the first ordination not performed by Jesus himself, how were apostles (later known as bishops [episkopay] - Acts 1:20) chosen **and** recognized immediately following the ascension of Jesus? (Acts 1:20-26)

## II. Acts 2

### A. The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)

1. According to the Church's traditional celebration of the biblical timeline, what day came 40 days after Jesus' resurrection and 10 days after his ascension? (Acts 2:1; Sunday, May 23, 2021)

2. In reference to a supernatural phenomenon commonly called *speaking in tongues*, Luke describes this historic event as being "filled with the Holy Spirit." Exactly what "other languages" did these first Christians speak in, and how were they able to do it? (Acts 2:2-10)

3. What were they talking about in these "other languages," and how was everyone able to understand each other? (Acts 2:11) Why did this happen then, and does it still happen today?

4. Compare and contrast other Christians being confused about speaking in tongues and those merely criticizing it. (Acts 2:12-13)

### B. Peter Addresses the Crowd (Acts 2:14-36)

1. To whom does God the Father promise to pour out his Spirit? (Acts 2:14-21; Joel 2:28-29)

2. What was the point of all the miracles Jesus performed, especially his resurrection and ascension? (Acts 2:22-28)

3. What can we learn about God the Father's faithfulness from David's own trust in him (Acts 2:29-31; Psalm 16:8-11; 73:23; 109:31; 110:5)

4. What was the basic requirement of a true apostle immediately following the ascension of Jesus? (Acts 2:32)

5. As believers, who mediates our relationship between God the Father and God the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:33)

6. According to Peter's sermon, who is Jesus? (Acts 2:34-36)

7. Peter's sermon ends on a heavy note. How did those who first heard it crucify Jesus? How do we who hear it today crucify Jesus? (Acts 2:36; Hebrews 6:6)

### C. The First Converts (Acts 2:37-42)

1. What is the appropriate response to a Christian sermon? (Acts 2:37-38)

2. Who is allowed to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and who is excluded from this promise? (Acts 2:39)

3. Is our role in our own salvation passive or dynamic? (Acts 2:40-41)
4. Exactly how many baptisms were performed on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:41)
5. What four activities defined this first community of baptized Christians and the early Church? (Acts 2:42) Why is it so important for the Church to continue these four activities today?

D. Life Among the Believers (Acts 2:43-47)

1. What are “wonders and signs,” and do they still happen today? If not, why? (Acts 2:43)
2. What are some of the marks of the apostolic Church? (Acts 2:44-47)

### III. Acts 3

A. Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar (Acts 3:1-10)

1. What two examples of Christian devotion do Peter and John show us? (Acts 3:1)
2. What does this early apostolic interaction with the poor teach us about how to respond to individuals with disabilities or living in financial poverty? (Acts 3:2-10)

B. Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico (Acts 3:11-26)

1. Using Peter as an example, what should a preacher or other faith healer do after a miracle has taken place? (Acts 3:11-19)
2. Peter says that the name of Jesus is what “made this man strong” (Acts 3:16). What does that mean? Are we saved and made strong by the syllables in Jesus' name or something else altogether? If not, then what?
3. What is Peter referring to when he preaches about the restitution, recovery, or restoration of “all things”? (Acts 3:20-21)
4. According to Peter, what did Moses prophesy about Jesus the Messiah? (Acts 3:22-23)
5. Who predicted the events of Jesus' life including his virgin birth, sinless life, undeserved death, bodily resurrection, and heavenly ascension? (Acts 3:24)
6. How are we and those who we share our faith to respond to the Gospel message? (Acts 3:25-26)

## IV. Devotional

### BEING A WITNESS OF CHRIST (Acts 1:8)

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8 NIV).*

When God created man, He gave him power over everything on earth. This power was a divine power because man was created in the image of God. But the fall of man into sin removed that divine power. The power source was disconnected.

Imagine if the electronic devices we use every day are disconnected from the existing energy sources. No matter how sophisticated the goods are, they will become useless. A reliable source of energy is very important in our life. Likewise, in our spiritual life, we need a source of energy. Only the power of God can supply our soul and spirit.

Jesus Christ has come to this world to reconcile us—sinful men [and women]—with a holy God. His crucifixion and blood redeemed us and cleansed the sin that caused us separation from that spiritual source of life. He has been taken up into heaven so that the promise of God is fulfilled upon the believers: The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Helper and Comforter came to dwell with His people.

The Holy Spirit is the power that encourages us to carry out the task for proclaiming salvation and witnessing Christ. It is the power that enables us to live in the truth and to be a channel of love for many people.

Are you willing to accept that power? It is simple: believe, repent, and accept Jesus to be your God. Then ask the Lord Jesus to flow the power of His Spirit to fill you, and accept it with faith.

**Be witnesses of Christ, who can bring salvation to others.**

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