

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

I THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JERUSALEM Acts 1-7

LESSON 2 ~ The Birth of the Church Through the Holy Spirit ~ Acts 2

KEY VERSE

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved (Acts 2:21).

PONDER¹

READ Acts Chapter 2.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ Acts 2:1-4.

1. What was the mindset of the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost² (v. 1)? _____

2. DESCRIBE each of the sudden events that the Apostles experienced when the Holy Spirit came upon³ them (vv. 2-4).

v. 2 _____

v. 3 _____ 4 5

v. 4 _____ 6

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² Day of Pentecost - Greek *Pentekoste*: meaning fifty. Old Testament festival celebrated fifty days after Passover; the first fruits of the wheat harvest; New Testament day of first fruits of Christ's church, the beginning of the great harvest of souls.

³ upon - Greek *epi*: overflowing. The Holy Spirit is with - Greek *para* - the unbeliever for conviction; comes in - Greek *en* - the believer at conversion; comes upon - Greek *epi* - the believer to empower him for service (see John 14:16, 17).

⁴ divided - Greek *merizomenai*: divided, separate, distribute; tongue like flames rested on each of Christ's disciples.

⁵ tongues as of fire - A sign of God's gift to the church. Fire is a visual manifestation of the presence of God (see Exodus 3:1-5; 13:21, 22; 19:18; I Kings 18:36-39; Ezekiel 1:25-27).

⁶ tongues - Greek *glossa*: language; languages unknown to the speaker.

⁷ utterance: to enunciate plainly, declare, speak forth.

THE CROWDS' RESPONSE

READ Acts 2:5-13.

1. Who was dwelling in Jerusalem at this time (v. 5)? _____

2. What were the responses of the multitude to the sound that occurred? Why did they respond as they did (vv. 6-8)? _____
_____ 8

3. Where was the multitude from (vv. 9-11a)? _____
_____ 9

4. What did they hear in their own tongues¹⁰ (v. 11b)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

LOOK at your map and LOCATE the birth places of the multitudes that heard the wonderful works of God in their own language.

According to Acts 2:5-11, how did the Holy Spirit begin His work of reaching Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the world?

PERSONAL

What is your ancestral origin and birthplace? How did you first hear the message of Christ? _____

5. What were the two given responses to the gift of the Holy Spirit (vv. 12, 13)? _____

⁸ language - Greek *dialektos* : a mode of discourse; dialect; known intelligent languages of the day; not ecstatic utterances.

⁹ proselytes - Greek *proselytos* : one who has come from a foreign region; convert, New Testament Gentile converts to Judaism.

¹⁰ tongues - Greek *glossa* : language; languages unknown to the speaker.

PERSONAL

What reactions have you, or others seen, regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in your life? _____

PETER’S SERMON

READ Acts 2:14-47.

A. Prophecy¹¹ Fulfilled Concerning the Holy Spirit (vv. 14-21)

The Apostle Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, confirmed that this miraculous event . . . *is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.*¹²

1. What was Joel’s prophecy upon all flesh (vv. 14-18)? _____

upon all creation (vv. 19, 20)? _____

13

2. What eternal promise did the Holy Spirit speak through Joel and Peter (v. 21)? _____

B. Prophecy Fulfilled Concerning Jesus (vv. 22-36)

Peter full of the Holy Spirit also confirmed the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ through a prophecy of David’s.

¹¹ Prophecy: inspired Word of God foretelling a future event.

¹² Joel - Hebrew *Yoe/*: meaning Yahweh is God; Old Testament writer of one of the oldest prophetic books (9th century B.C.) on repentance, the future and the coming Day of the Lord.

¹³ great and awesome day of the LORD: the judgment of the Lord during the Tribulation, ending with His glorious Second Coming (see Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 19).

3. Who is Jesus of Nazareth¹⁴ (v. 22)? _____ 15

4. By the foreordained plan of God, what did Peter accuse mankind of doing (vv. 23, 24)? _____

What did God do? _____

5. What did Peter share from David's prophesy, Psalm 16:8-11, concerning the bodily resurrection of the LORD Jesus Christ (Acts 2:24-28)?

16

6. What did Peter speak freely of concerning the patriarch¹⁷ David (vv. 29, 30)? _____

7. What did Peter emphasize that David foresaw concerning Christ (v. 31a)? _____

18

8. What further truths did Peter expound relating to the risen Son of God (vv. 32, 33)? _____

¹⁴ Jesus of Nazareth: name of Jesus the Son of God; the Son of Man raised in the town of Nazareth; the Nazarene.

¹⁵ miracles, wonders and signs - three words that describe the miracles of Jesus; miracles - Greek *dunamis*: might, wonderful work, divine miraculous power; wonders - Greek *teras*: amazement and wonder; signs - Greek *semaino*: to indicate signs of divine power, spiritual truth.

¹⁶ Your Holy One: the name of Jesus the Son of God, the spotless Lamb of God.

¹⁷ patriarch: one of the fathers of old; king of Israel.

¹⁸ Hades: the realm of the dead, place of the departed spirits before the resurrection of Christ.

9. Peter concluded his sermon by quoting David in Psalm 110:1. How does Peter prove the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:34-36)?

C. The Holy Spirit Convicts the Multitude (vv. 37-39)

10. How did the inspired Word of God convict²¹ the multitude of their sins (v. 37)? _____

11. WRITE Peter's response (v. 38). _____

12. For whom is the promise of the Holy Spirit (v. 39)? _____

PERSONAL

How has the Holy Spirit convicted your heart through His Word? _____

D. The Birth of the Church (vv. 40-47)

13. Peter continued to testify to the multitude about Christ. How many souls received the Word of God and were baptized²³ (vv. 40, 41)?

¹⁹ the LORD - Hebrew *Jehovah* : Self-existent, Eternal, Jewish name for God; the Lord.

²⁰ my Lord - Hebrew *Adonai* : Sovereign, Controller, Master, Owner; the Lord of David, the Lord of man; Jesus the Christ.

²¹ convict: to be made aware of one's sin through the Holy Spirit.

²² cut - Greek *diaprio* : to saw asunder; exasperate; a vivid description of the Holy Spirit's conviction.

²³ baptized - Greek *baptizo* : to immerse, submerge, to make overwhelmed; symbolic of the death of the old nature and our new life in Christ; identifying with Christ in His death and resurrection.

14. DESCRIBE the actions of the first believers and the Apostles as the Holy Spirit was giving birth to the new church (vv. 42-47a).

24

15. How did the Lord²⁵ bless the Church (v. 47b)? _____

PERSONAL

Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? _____

If not, ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you now.

What supernatural changes have taken place in your life since you received the empowering of the Holy Spirit?

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

²⁴ doctrine : what is taught in the Word of God and believed by the church concerning Jesus.

²⁵ Lord - Greek *Kuriōs* : Supreme in authority, Controller, God, Lord, Master.

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