



Work - OF THE - Spirit

AS TAUGHT BY
CHERYL BRODERSEN

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

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Work of the Spirit

Devotional Studies from the Book of Acts

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LESSON 1

The Right Objective

ACTS 1

FIRST DAY: Welcome and Introduction

1. Do you desire to be a greater witness for Jesus? Do you at times feel spiritually powerless and anemic? Then the book of Acts is exactly what you need! Imagine the plight of those early disciples—they were equipped with the amazing gospel of Jesus Christ, yet the world around them was hostile, pagvanized, and utterly degenerate. As a small band of seemingly insignificant Jews, how would they possibly proclaim this glorious news to the world?

Like all of us, the disciples needed the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Luke, the author of the book of Acts, recorded the plight of the disciples before the Holy Spirit's anointing and the thrilling activity that followed this anointing. As you study the book of Acts, keep in mind that God wants to do thrilling things in your life through the agency of His Spirit in you.

Read Acts chapter 1 and record what ministers most to you from these verses:

- a. Acts 1:1–3

- b. Acts 1:4–8

c. Acts 1:9–14

d. Acts 1:15–26

2. Begin this study in Acts by asking God to baptize you afresh in His Spirit so that you might have a greater appreciation and passion for Jesus.

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

ACTS 1:8

SECOND DAY: Read Acts 1:1–3

1. The book of Acts serves as a *sequel* to the gospel of Luke. In fact, Luke opens in Acts 1:1a with a reference to his *former account*. Link this with Luke 1:1–4 and comment on Luke’s purpose in recording these events.
2. What was Luke’s *former account* about? Acts 1:1b–2a
3. Cite Jesus’ activity following His resurrection from Acts 1:2b–3.

- a. Remark on some of the *infallible proofs* of Jesus' resurrection from the following:
 - (1) Mark 16:9, 12, 14
 - (2) John 21:4–10
 - (3) 1 Corinthians 15:4–8
 - b. What do these *proofs* reveal about the Christian faith?
 - (1) Why are these *proofs* important to know?
 - (2) How do these *proofs* embolden your faith?
4. While Jesus was *seen by them during forty days*, what did He speak about? Acts 1:3b
- a. Why are these *things* significant?
5. Luke addressed his account to a man named *Theophilus*, which means *God-lover*. How does this address include you?

THIRD DAY: Read Acts 1:4–8

1. When Jesus *assembled* with His disciples prior to His ascension into heaven, what did He command them *not* to do? Acts 1:4a
 - a. Rather, what were they to do? Acts 1:4b

2. What did Jesus say about the *Promise of the Father*? Acts 1:4c–5
 - a. Note from the following Scriptures what they had *heard from* Jesus concerning this:
 - (1) John 14:16–17

 - (2) John 14:25–26

 - (3) John 15:26–27

 - (a) In light of these verses, why was it important for them *to wait for the Promise of the Father*?

3. What was the focus of the disciples' question to Jesus? Acts 1:6
 - a. What did Jesus say was *not* for them to *know*? Acts 1:7
 - (1) What comfort do you find that these things are under the Father's *authority*?
4. Rather than Israel's restoration, what did Jesus want the disciples to seek? Acts 1:8
 - a. What would happen *when the Holy Spirit* came upon the disciples?
 - b. Why was the *power* of the Holy Spirit necessary for this activity?
5. From what you studied today, why is it essential to wait for the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

FOURTH DAY: Read Acts 1:9–14

1. Use Luke 24:50–51 and Acts 1:9–11 to describe the ascension of Jesus.

a. How do you suppose the disciples felt when they witnessed this?

b. What did the *two men* declare to the disciples? Acts 1:11

(1) Link this with Matthew 24:30 and Revelation 1:7.
Share your thoughts.

2. Where did the disciples go after this? Acts 1:12–13a

a. Why there? See Acts 1:4.

b. From Luke 24:52 note and comment on their demeanor as they journeyed.

3. Who assembled together? Acts 1:13b–14
 - a. Who or what do you find notable about this gathering?
 - b. What did they do when they met? Acts 1:14a

4. Note that while the disciples waited for the *Promise* they *continued with one accord in prayer and supplication*. How does this speak to you about your activity as you wait for God's promise?

FIFTH DAY: Read Acts 1:15–26

1. According to Acts 1:15–17, as the disciples were praying in the upper room, Peter *stood up* and spoke about Judas. What did he declare? Acts 1:16–17

2. From Acts 1:18–19 describe the fate of Judas.

3. In Acts 1:20 Peter referred to two prophecies concerning Judas (Psalm 69:25, 109:8). In light of these prophecies, Peter declared that someone must be chosen to take Judas' place. What requirements did this person need to qualify for this position? Acts 1:21–22
 - a. Why do you think Peter considered these to be essential qualifications?

4. Summarize the events of Acts 1:23–26.

5. Casting lots was an Old Testament method of discerning God's will. Once the *Promise* of the Holy Spirit came, this method was never used again. According to Proverbs 3:5–6, what is the best way to discern God's will?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From Acts 1 briefly review and comment on the following:
 - a. Jesus' promise (verses 4–8)

 - b. Jesus' ascension (verses 9–11)

 - c. the upper room (verses 12–14)

 - d. the disciples' dilemma (verses 15–26)

2. From Acts 1 describe the disciples' overall state before the *Promise of the Father*.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.

ACTS 1:14

PERSONAL NOTES



LESSON 2

Evidence of the Baptism of the Spirit

ACTS 2

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What thought remains with you from the last study?

2. The adventure begins here in chapter 2 of Acts! The events recorded in this chapter mark the birth of the church. Before the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, they met and prayed behind locked doors. However, under the anointing of the Spirit, the disciples began to proclaim *the wonderful works of God*. Peter also received boldness to publicly proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to give a scriptural explanation for the phenomena the visitors in Jerusalem witnessed. From this point on, believers began to carry out miraculous exploits in Jesus' name and take the gospel to the world. This same Holy Spirit is needed in the church today and is available to any believer who asks God. God desires to work through every Christian by the power of the Holy Spirit. Read Acts chapter 2 and briefly summarize the events of each section:
 - a. Acts 2:1–13

 - b. Acts 2:14–24

c. Acts 2:25–39

d. Acts 2:40–47

3. Knowing that the filling of the Holy Spirit is essential to the study of God’s Word, ask Him to fill you anew.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2:4

SECOND DAY: Read Acts 2:1–13

1. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples remained in Jerusalem as He had commanded them. On the Day of Pentecost, *they were all with one accord in one place* (Acts 2:1). From Acts 2:2–4, answer the following questions:
- Describe what *suddenly* happened. Acts 2:2
 - What *appeared* upon each of the disciples? Acts 2:3
 - Link this with Luke 3:16 and share your thoughts.
 - What happened next? Acts 2:4a

- d. What did the disciples begin to do? Acts 2:4b
- (1) Use Acts 1:8 to comment on the importance of this event.
2. *Pentecost* was an important feast when all Jews were required to be in Jerusalem. It took place fifty days after Passover and celebrated the first fruits of the harvest. Why do you think it is significant that the Holy Spirit came upon them on this day?
- a. Who was *dwelling in Jerusalem* for the observance of *Pentecost*? Acts 2:5
- b. From Acts 2:6–11 summarize the response of the *multitude* when they heard *this sound*.
- (1) What specifically were the disciples *speaking* of? Acts 2:11b
- (a) What does this indicate concerning the work of the Holy Spirit? See John 16:14.

3. Remark on the mixed reviews by the *multitude* to these events.
Acts 2:12–13
 - a. What reaction do you think you would have had?

4. What do you find most exciting about your study today?

THIRD DAY: Read Acts 2:14–24

1. Since these remarkable events took place at *the third hour of the day* (9:00 a.m.), when Peter stood up to preach (Acts 2:14), what did he clarify to the people? Acts 2:15
 - a. What did he use to validate what was happening? Acts 2:16
 - (1) Record some of the key promises of Joel’s prophecy.
Acts 2:17–21 (Joel 2:28–32)
 - (a) What impresses you the most about this prophecy?

2. What did Peter declare about Jesus in Acts 2:22?

3. According to Acts 2:23a, by what means was Jesus *delivered*?
 - a. Link this with Luke 24:44–46. What does this convey to you concerning the life and death of Jesus?

4. How was Jesus *taken*? Acts 2:23b
 - a. In spite of their actions, what did God do? Acts 2:24a
 - (1) What did Peter declare was *not possible*? Acts 2:24b
 - (a) How does this speak to you about the power of Jesus?

FOURTH DAY: Read Acts 2:25–39

1. As Peter continued to preach, confirming the fact that Jesus could not be held by death, he referenced a prophecy of David. What does this prophecy state? Acts 2:25–28

2. Read Acts 2:29–31 (NLT): *Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn't referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah's resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave Him among the dead or allow His body to rot in the grave.* What did Peter want this crowd to know about Jesus?

3. What did Peter declare concerning the resurrection of Jesus in Acts 2:32?
 - a. Why would this have been an important point to make? See also 2 Peter 1:16.

4. How did Peter connect the resurrection of Jesus with all that the crowd had witnessed? Acts 2:33

5. In Acts 2:34–35 Peter cited another prophecy to emphasize that these things did not refer to David, but to Jesus as Messiah. Link this with Jesus' own words in Matthew 22:41–45 and share your thoughts.

6. Note Peter's summation from Acts 2:36 and share why this was valid.

7. What was the response of the crowd to Peter's message? Acts 2:37
 - a. Why do you think they had this reaction? See also John 16:8.

 - b. What is your reaction to these things?

8. What did Peter tell them they needed to *do*? Acts 2:38
 - a. Who was this promise for? Acts 2:39

9. Share a blessing you received from Peter's sermon.

FIFTH DAY: Read Acts 2:40–47

1. According to Acts 2:40, what followed Peter’s sermon?
 - a. Describe the response to Peter’s *word* from Acts 2:41.

2. From Acts 2:42 list and comment briefly on the four activities in which the believers *continued steadfastly*:
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

 - d.
 - (1) Why do you think these practices are important to the body of Christ today?

3. How were the believers affected as they continued in these activities? Acts 2:43–45
 - a. What do you find remarkable about this?

4. From Acts 2:46–47a, cite how the believers practiced the disciplines they began in Acts 2:42.

5. What do you find noteworthy about the demeanor of these early believers?
 - a. How do you see this as an outworking of the Holy Spirit?

6. As these believers lived out the gospel, what did *the Lord* do? Acts 2:47b
 - a. How are these believers an example to you?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Identify how the following events in Acts 2 reflect the work of the Holy Spirit:
 - a. the events on the Day of Pentecost (verses 1–13)
 - b. Peter's message (verses 14–39)
 - c. the growth and activity of the church (verses 40–47)
2. How do the events in Acts 2 speak to you concerning your need for the Holy Spirit?

*They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

ACTS 2:42