

Empowered by the Holy Spirit¹

- Jesus' ministry is not done, he has sent the Holy Spirit to us (a new beginning to what Jesus plans to accomplish before He returns). Luke alludes to the perfect tense of the action in the very beginning of the Book of Acts. (Acts 1:1) This makes the book of Acts the second volume of the gospels (or Good News).

Acts 1:1 *"In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach"...*

- What is this teaching that Jesus began? Who do you say Jesus is?

Acts 1:4b-5 *"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

- How is water baptism different from the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- Is water baptism enough or necessary for salvation?

The Promise of the Comforter

Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Acts 1:14 *"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."*

The Arrival of the Comforter

Acts 2:3 *"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them"*

Acts 2:11b *"We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues"*

Note the reference to the last days in Acts 2:17.

Since Jesus was a man accredited by God through miracles, wonders and signs... we can expect the same if we are continuing his ministry on earth. (See Acts 2:22)

- So what should be our stance? (See Acts 2:25-28)
 - o I will not be shaken
 - o My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices
 - o Jesus has made known to us the path of life
 - o Jesus will fill me with joy in his presence
 - o Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, receive the Holy Spirit! (See Acts 2:38)

Acts 2:41 *"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number."*

¹ Based on the Book of Acts Chapters 1-5

- So what happens after baptism?

We are talking about new converts... notice their dedication to the Lord! Acts 2:42 *"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"*

The miracles, wonders and signs accrediting Jesus' work through the disciples begin...

The Healing of the Crippled Beggar (Acts 3:1-10)

- Peter and John giving credit to Jesus (Acts 3:12b-13a)
- Acts 3:16 *"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see."*
- Peter takes the opportunity to witness about Jesus... 2000 more become Christians!
- Peter declares that *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"*. (Acts 4:12)

The prayer life of the believers...

- They raised their voices together in prayer to God. (Acts 4:23)
 - o What does this mean? (With one Heart, see Acts 4:32)
- *"Now Lord, consider their threats and enabled your servant to speak your work with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of you holy servant Jesus. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."* (Acts 4:29-31)

Healthy Fear of God (See Ananias and Sapphira)

Realization that obedience is key to living in the presence of God

- Acts 5:32 *"We are witnesses of these things, and so it the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."*

Realization that man's plans can and will fail, but God's plans always succeed.

- *"For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."* Acts 5:38c -39

Jesus has come to give us life in abundance! In Baptism we have become part of the Royal Priesthood of believers... adopted sons and daughters... empowered to overcome sin and ambassadors of the Good News that Yahweh has sent Jesus who is Christ our Kinsman Redeemer. Our portion is Him and we are more than blessed!