

ACTS

The Triumph of The Holy Spirit



Acts continues Jesus!

We continue Acts!

After his suffering, Jesus presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “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.***”

Acts 1

Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one** of you, **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”

The **promise** is for **you** and **your children** and for **all who are far off**— for **all** whom the Lord our God will call.”

With **many other words** he **warned** them; and he **pleaded** with them, “**Save yourselves** from this **corrupt** generation.”

Acts 2

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ***Everyone was filled with awe*** at the many wonders and miraculous signs done by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ***ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.***

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk.

Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and ***they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.***

“Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. But to **stop this thing from spreading** any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because **all the people were praising God** for what had happened.

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “**Sovereign Lord**,” they said, “**you made** the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

You spoke ...

They did **what your power and will had decided** beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and **enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand** to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your 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**.

All the believers were ***one in heart and mind***. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ***With great power*** the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. ***And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them***. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, ***how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit*** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And ***great fear seized all who heard what had happened.***

About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”

Peter said to her, “How could you ***conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord?*** Listen! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, **more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added** to their number.

As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.” At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. “***We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,***” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors **raised Jesus** from the dead—**whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior** that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

... “Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! 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.”

Gamaliel’s speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and ***had them flogged***. Then ***they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus***, and let them go.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, ***rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name***.

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, ***the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*** So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

Brothers and sisters, ***choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.*** We will turn this responsibility over to them and ***we will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.***”

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose ***Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit;*** also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented them to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of ***priests*** became obedient to the faith.

Keeping it real with God!

Taking care of each other!

Staying true to God's mission!



