

The Book of Acts

or

The Acts of the Holy Spirit / The Apostles

Personal Preparations

1. Read through Acts as a Historian

- a. Read up on the First Century World & note the History of the Times
- b. Read chapter by chapter paying attention to the setting and background of Acts

2. Read through Acts as a Newspaper Reporter – report on the EVENTS

- a. Who is involved in this event?
- b. What is taking place?
- c. Where are they?
- d. When did this occur?
- e. Why did this happen?
- f. How is it explained?

3. Read through Acts as a Pastor – focus on the MESSAGES

- a. What did they preach? **CONTENT**
- b. What did they instruct the people? **INSTRUCTION**
- c. What were the results? **RESULTS**

4. Read through Acts as a Specialist – focus on the SUBJECTS

- a. the growth of the Church
- b. the filling of the Holy Spirit
- c. speaking in tongues
- d. the laying on of hands



The Holy Spirit in Acts

1:4-8,15-17,20-22	2:1-4,14-21, 29-36, 37-41		4:8-13, 23-31
<p>* Wait for the Father's promise which you heard from Me</p> <p>* Shall be baptized with Holy Spirit</p> <p>When: not many days from now</p> <p>Result:</p> <p>* Receive power / be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, remotest part of earth</p> <p>* John's Baptism / Old Covenant</p> <p>* Holy Spirit Baptism / New Covenant</p> <p>* the Holy Spirit foretold Judas' betrayal of Jesus in the Scripture through David</p> <p>* Peter, guided by the Scripture, initiated the replacement of Judas with Matthias</p>	<p>* Day of Pentecost</p> <p>* all together</p> <p>* noise / wind</p> <p>* tongues as of fire rested on all one by one</p> <p>* all filled with Holy Spirit</p> <p>* spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>* witnessed of God's mighty deeds in tongues</p> <p>* at least 10 apostles had already believed & had received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), now all 120 were empowered by the Holy Spirit's coming upon them</p> <p>****</p> <p>time interval</p> <p>****</p> <p>* baptized with Holy Spirit</p> <p>* Acts 2 – Jews</p> <p>* God will pour forth of His Spirit upon all mankind: your sons & your daughters, your young and old men; and even (<i>vegam, Heb</i>) upon My bondslaves, both men & women</p> <p>Effect on People:</p> <p>* they shall prophesy</p> <p>* dreams</p> <p>* visions</p> <p>* cosmic wonders in the sky & signs on the earth below</p> <p>When: before the great and glorious Day of the LORD shall come</p>	<p>What: salvation to everyone who calls on the name of the LORD</p> <p>* the resurrection of Christ foretold by David</p> <p>* Jesus exalted to God's right hand</p> <p>* Christ, having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, has poured forth this which you both see and hear</p> <p>When</p> <p>* The Inauguration of the New Covenant – the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us forever (John 14:16,17)</p> <p>* repent</p> <p>* be baptized in Jesus' name for forgiveness of sin</p> <p>* You shall receive the gift of Holy Spirit</p> <p>* The promise is for you & your children, those far off and all whom God calls to Himself</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>* about 3,000 souls saved on Pentecost</p>	<p>Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit to boldly declare that salvation is in Jesus alone</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>* confidence of Peter of John</p> <p>* they marveled & recognized them as having been with Jesus</p> <p>* David spoke through the Holy Spirit of the Gentiles' rage against the Lord & His Christ</p> <p>* fulfilled today</p> <p>* prayer for boldness & for God to heal & perform signs & wonders</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>* place shaken</p> <p>* all filled with the Holy Spirit</p> <p>* all spoke the word of God with boldness</p>



The Holy Spirit in Acts

5:3-11, 29-31	6:1-10	7:51-60	8:14-23, 26-40	9:10-20, 26-31	10:9-23, 34-48
<p>* the Holy Spirit told Peter of Ananias' lie</p> <p>* to lie to the Holy Spirit = to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>* both Ananias and Sapphira died</p> <p>* great fear came upon the whole church & all who heard</p> <p>* The Holy Spirit is witness to:</p> <p>a. Jesus' death</p> <p>b. Jesus' exaltation to God's right hand</p> <p>c. Jesus as Prince</p> <p>d. Jesus as Savior, granting repentance to Israel & forgiveness of sins</p> <p>* The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God</p>	<p>* <u>character traits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - good reputation - full of the Spirit - full of wisdom <p>* <u>Stephen</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a man full of faith & of the Holy Spirit - full of grace & power - was performing great wonders & signs - spoke with the wisdom & the Spirit that others couldn't cope with 	<p><u>Signs of Resisting the Holy Spirit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * stiff-necked & uncircumcised in heart & ears * * betrayers & murderers * disobedient to the Law * gnashing their teeth * stoned Stephen to death <p>Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, saw God's glory & Jesus</p>	<p>* Samaritans received the Word / believed & were baptized</p> <p>****</p> <p>time interval</p> <p>****</p> <p>* Samaritans received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the apostles' hands</p> <p>* Acts 8 - Samaritans (Gentiles)</p> <p>* the Holy Spirit = the gift of God</p> <p>The Spirit told Philip to preach the gospel to the Ethiopian Eunuch</p> <p>* the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away from Gaza to Azotus</p>	<p>* the Lord sent Ananias to lay hands on Paul</p> <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Paul regained his sight * was filled with the Holy Spirit * was baptized * proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues the church throughout Judea, Galilee & Samaria enjoyed peace, going on * in the fear of the Lord * in the comfort of the Holy Spirit <p>Result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * continued to increase 	<p>* Peter had a vision 3 times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the Spirit told him of 3 men looking for him * the Spirit Himself had sent them to Peter * God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit & with power * the HS fell on Gentiles = poured out <p>Result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * they spoke with tongues & exalted God * they received the HS just as the Jews did (Acts 2)



The Holy Spirit in Acts

11:1-19, 20-30	13:1-12, 43-52	15:4-12, 22-31	16:6-10	19:1-7	20:17-35	21:4-14	28:23-31
<p>* the Spirit told Peter to go with Cornelius' 3 men</p> <p>* the Holy Spirit fell on them (Acts 10) as they did on the Jews at the beginning (Acts 2)</p> <p>* God gave them the same gift as us after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ</p> <p><u>Character Trait of Barnabas:</u></p> <p>* a good man</p> <p>* full of the HS</p> <p>* full of faith</p> <p>* Agabus indicated by the Spirit that there would be a great famine all over the world – foretelling the future</p>	<p>* the Holy Spirit is in charge of missions</p> <p>* He sent out Barnabas & Saul</p> <p>* Paul filled with the HS, described Elymas' heart & pronounced judgment on him</p> <p><u>Result:</u></p> <p>* Elymas blinded</p> <p>* proconsul believed</p> <p>* the churches were continually filled with joy & with the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>* God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit (Acts 10), just as He also did to us (Acts 2)</p> <p>* the Holy Spirit guided the Council at Jerusalem in their decision to not burden the Gentile churches with other than 4 essentials</p>	<p>* the Holy Spirit forbade Paul & Silas to speak the word in Asia</p> <p>* the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them to go into Bithynia</p>	<p>* Paul asked 12 of John's disciples whether they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed</p> <p>* they had not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit because they were baptized into John's baptism only</p> <p>* Paul laid hands on them & the Holy Spirit came on them</p> <p><u>Results</u></p> <p>* they spoke in tongues & prophesied</p>	<p>* the Holy Spirit prophesied of bonds & afflictions for Paul</p> <p>* the Holy Spirit made them overseers of the church of God</p>	<p>* the Spirit spoke thro the disciples to tell Paul not to set foot in Jerusalem</p> <p>* Agabus prophesied that the HS says that Paul would be bound & delivered to the Gentiles</p>	<p>* the Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah of Jewish unbelief</p>



Filled with the Holy Spirit

2:1-4	4:8	4:31	6:3	6:5
<p>Day of Pentecost all filled with HS spoke in other tongues ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INITIAL</p> <p>*Sign: tongues speaking</p>	<p>Peter before Council defended miracle of lame man Proclaimed Jesus' name ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Sign: boldness to preach Jesus</p>	<p>after report & prayer for boldness all filled with HS spoke God's Word with boldness ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">power to witness</p> <p>*Signs: Place shaken & boldness to speak God's word</p>	<p>deacons must be full of HS ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">similar to character trait</p> <p>* Sign: Christlike character</p> <p>* Sign: power to perform great wonders & signs</p> <p>* Sign: wisdom & boldness to speak God's Word</p>	<p>Stephen full of the HS ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">similar to character trait</p> <p>* Sign: Christlike character</p> <p>* Sign: power to perform great wonders & signs</p> <p>* Sign: wisdom & boldness to speak God's Word</p>
7:54-55	9:17	11:24	13:9	13:52
<p>Stephen being full of HS, saw God' glory & Jesus standing at God's right hand ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saw Jesus</p> <p>*Sign: saw Jesus in a vision</p>	<p>Saul to receive sight & be filled with HS ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">for his future ministry to Gentiles</p> <p>*Sign: Scales fell off, sight regained; power to proclaim Jesus</p>	<p>Barnabas full of the HS ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">like character quality</p> <p>*Sign: Christlike character & salvation of many</p>	<p>Paul filled with HS - given insight to Elymas' character pronounced God's judgment on him ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">for judgment</p> <p>*Sign: Elymas blinded & proconsul believed</p>	<p>disciples continuously filled with HS ****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">power to live</p> <p>* Sign: joy in the midst of persecution</p>



Speaking in Tongues

Acts 2:1-4	Acts 10:42-48	Acts 19:1-7
<p>2:1 And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.</p>	<p>42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 43 Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins." 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, <u>the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.</u> 45 And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we <i>did</i>, can he?" 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.</p>	<p>1 And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, 2 and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they <i>said</i> to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. 7 And there were in all about twelve men.</p>
<p>Pentecost / Jerusalem 120 Disciples Jews</p>	<p>Caesarea Cornelius' Household (~300?) Gentiles</p>	<p>Ephesus 12 of John's Disciples Jews</p>

Speaking in Tongues

Acts 2:1-4	Acts 10:42-48	Acts 19:1-6
<p>Day of Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - apostles & disciples & women = 120 - all Jews - all spoke in about 15 languages - they spoke of the mighty deeds of God <p>* Sign of fulfillment of Prophecy</p>	<p>Cornelius & household, friends and relatives -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gentiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spoke in tongues and exalted God <p>* Sign that Gentiles had been received by God</p>	<p>12 In Ephesus, 12 men who were John's disciples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spoke in tongues & prophesied <p>* Sign that John's baptism (Old Covenant) is replaced by the New Covenant</p>

NB: Consistent sign in all events in Acts is the POWER TO WITNESS. Even here, they are witnessing to God and His mighty deeds / Tongues is A sign, not THE sign



Laying on of Hands

6:6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, **they laid their hands on them.**

8:17 Then **they began laying their hands on them**, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through **the laying on of the apostles' hands**, he offered them money,

8:19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom **I lay my hands** may receive the Holy Spirit."

9:12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and **lay his hands on him**, so that he might regain his sight."

9:17 And Ananias departed and entered the house, and **after laying his hands on him** said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and **laid their hands on them**, they sent them away.

19:6 And **when Paul had laid his hands upon them**, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.

28:8 And it came about that the father of Publius was lying *in bed* afflicted with *recurrent* fever and dysentery; and Paul went in *to* see him and after he had prayed, **he laid his hands on him** and healed him.



Laying on of Hands

6:2-6	8:14-17	9:12,17	13:2-3	19:6	28:8
<p><u>Choice of deacons</u> * apostles laid hands on seven deacons ****</p> <p><u>Ordination - for service</u></p>	<p><u>Confirmation that God had received the Samaritans</u> * Peter & John laid hands on the Samaritan believers - received HS ****</p> <p><u>Identification</u> - that God had received them as He did the Jews</p> <p>* Peter & John had authority to give the HS</p>	<p><u>Confirmation that God had chosen Saul for ministry</u> Ananias laid hands on Saul - Saul regained sight ****</p> <p><u>Ordination for Gentile ministry</u></p> <p><u>Identification</u> with an ex-enemy of Jesus</p> <p>* For Saul's healing</p>	<p><u>Elders laid hands on Barnabas and Saul for missionary enterprise</u> - commanded by the HS ****</p> <p><u>Ordination for Gentile ministry</u></p> <p><u>Identification</u> - you go with our blessings & prayers</p>	<p><u>Paul laid hands on 12 men in Ephesus</u> - received HS - spoke in tongues ****</p> <p><u>Identification</u> - Old Covenant (John's baptism) has now given way to the New Covenant</p> <p>* Paul had authority to give the HS</p>	<p>Paul laid hands on Publius' father & he was healed ****</p> <p>* For healing</p>

