

Sermon, January 29, 2012
“The Holy Spirit”, Acts 2:1-13
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The 27 Books of the New Testament

- Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Early Church: Book of Acts
- 13 Letters of Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- 8 General Letters: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- Prophecy: Revelations

Overview of Acts:

- The Acts of the Apostles; The Act of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles
- Acts was written by Luke and is the second part of Luke’s writings after the Gospel of Luke
- Luke was a companion of the Apostle Paul and wrote his account of the early church from interviews and assisting Paul in ministry
- The time of the writing is around 60-62 AD.
- The Apostle Paul refers to Luke as a physician (Colossians 4:14)
- Acts records the Apostles response to Matthew 28:19-20.
- Acts is a record of the first 30 years of the church in historical narrative from the ascension of Christ in 30AD to 60AD before the end of Paul’s first Roman imprisonment.
- Features Peter in Chapter 1-12 and Paul in 13-28.

General Outline of Acts:

1. Prologue (1:1-8)
2. Coming of the Holy Spirit (1:9-2:13)
2. Witness to Jerusalem (2:13-8:3)
3. Witness to Judea and Samaria (8:4-12:25)
4. Witness to the Ends of the Earth (13:1-28:31)

Major Themes of Acts:

- The Holy Spirit revealed
- Power of the church
- The spread of the Gospel message of Jesus the Messiah
- Good news offered to all human kind

For all the narrative history of Acts the most important event is that by which nothing else could possibly be accomplished and the gospel never spread...the coming of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is integral to the work of Christ.

He was responsible for the birth of Christ...**Matthew 1:20**

John proclaims one is coming who will baptize in the Holy Spirit...**Luke 3:16**

He was there at Jesus baptism...**Luke 3:21-22**

And filled Him and led Him...**Luke 4:1**

Jesus returned to Galilee full of power...**Luke 4:14**

He was anointed with the Spirit in order to proclaim...**Luke 4:17-19**

Jesus, with the Spirit upon Him, was to proclaim the gospel to all...**Matthew 12:17-18**

The Spirit was not to be spoken against...**Matthew 12:32**

When Jesus sends the disciples out He promises the Holy Spirit will speak for them...**Mark 13:11**

Jesus speaks of the necessity of the Holy Spirit in being born again...**John 3:3-5**

Jesus promises to send the person of the Holy Spirit in a new way...**John 14:16-17 John 14:25-26**

The Holy Spirit is given in order that we might testify the truth of Christ...**John 15:26-27 John 16:13-15**

Jesus submits to death on the cross through the Holy Spirit... **Hebrews 9:14**

The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and raises you to new life...**Romans 8:11**

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2. The risen Lord walks among His disciples.

- For 40 days Jesus walked among His disciples for a time and ascended into heaven.
- Before He left them He commanded them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 1:4-5**
- So the disciples obeyed Jesus and were in Jerusalem on the Feast of Pentecost, 50 days after His resurrection.
- **Acts 2:1** *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.*

3. The disciples were gathered in a place in Jerusalem at Pentecost

- Pentecost (which in Greek means 50) was the Feast of Weeks and celebrated the beginning of the summer harvest, a time when the firstfruits of the summer harvest were offered.
- The feast of Pentecost was one of three annual feasts that Jews were required to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The feast of Unleavened Bread (which included Passover) and the Feast of Tabernacle (which included the Day of Atonement) were the others.

4. Now, the disciples knew that something was about to happen within a short time after Jesus ascended

- **Acts 1:8-9**
- Something was about to happen that was above and beyond what they were expecting.
- **Acts 2:2-4**
- The power of the Holy Spirit was upon them and in them.

5. The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is analogous to the baptism of Jesus.

- As we have heard from various Scriptures that Jesus was baptized into His ministry in the power and filling of the Holy Spirit, The Body of Christ is baptized by the Holy Spirit so that the church is empowered to proclaim the truth of the Gospel,
- The church is filled with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit dwells within its members.
- When the Holy Spirit indwelt the disciples what did they do?
- **Acts 2:5-11**
- People were gathered from all over... from northern Africa, to Asia through Turkey and Greece and Rome! They heard the message of the Gospel in their own language!
- The “Church” was anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

6. When confronted with the gospel message people react in the same way today as then...

- **Acts 2:12-13** ¹² *All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"* ¹³ *But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."*
- Some are amazed and some sneer!
- The first major sermon in church history was about to happen by the power of the Holy Spirit,
- **Acts 2:38-42** ³⁸ *Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* ³⁹ *"For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."*

7. Conclusion

- 3,000 of the diverse crowd accepted the gospel message and were filled with the Holy Spirit
- The church was anointed into service by the baptism of the Holy Spirit!
- The Holy Spirit is a person and the abiding power of the Holy Spirit leads you, the church, the body of Christ to witness and testify the Gospel of Jesus Christ..
- For all the narrative history of Acts the most important event is that by which nothing else could possibly be accomplished and the gospel never spread...the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- That same Holy Spirit who enabled the disciples to fulfill God’s plan is at work in you today.