



# WORK OF THE SPIRIT

## Introduction and Acts Chapter 1

Lesson 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, paganized, 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 in His Spirit 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?

