

## **Background of Book – Acts 1:1-5**

*No matter what you know don't do anything until you receive the promise of the father (which is the Holy Spirit)*

### **Why should they not attempt the work without the Holy Spirit?**

Because you are up against people who are BLINDED – **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

Once you receive the gift (Holy Spirit) you will be ready to do the work. When the apostles received the Holy Spirit, their actions are what is recorded in the Book of Acts.

Our study will be about this book of Acts of the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

Let us begin by looking at a map that will set the tone for us. The book of acts links the Gospels to the Epistles

### **The Travel Areas of the Acts of the Apostles; also where Paul Sent his Letters**

<https://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CN092MAPS1.htm>

They stayed in Jerusalem and later went to Judea and Samaria

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey**

Antioch—Salamis—Paphos—Pamphylia—Lystra—Derbe—Back to Antioch

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey**

Antioch—Tarsus—Derbe—Troas—Neapolis—Amphipolis—Thessalonica—Berae—Athens—Corinth—Ephesus—Caesarea—Jerusalem—Damascus—Back to Antioch

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey**

Antioch—Laodicea—Ephesus—Pergamum—Adramythium—Berea—Cencgrea—Berea—Troas—Patara—Tyre—Jerusalem

- What happened from all the travels? Was the **CHURCH**
- How it all happened? By the Power of the **HOLY SPIRIT**
- Why did it happen? Because of US

**So that we would know:**

1. What happens when the Holy Spirit Infuses a church?
2. How the church functions when the Holy Spirit is not present?
3. What we are supposed to do and be today as the church of Jesus?

John 14:15-17 – Spirit of truth to guide you and he will be inside you.

***How does this work?*** John 14:18-26

John 14:18-26 – The Holy Spirit is for those who obey me. He will help them obey me and once that happens I and the father will come and live in them.

***Jesus now paints a picture of how this works in John 15:1-5***

***PICTURE***

Simply stay connected (remain in Jesus).

***How do you remain in Jesus?*** Obedience (John 15:9-10)

**Obedience produces a deeper relationship with Jesus, the same way he enjoys with the father.**

John 15:14

**The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth who will live inside you to guide you but His guidance is contingent on your continual obedience to His promptings.**

- The Holy Spirit's role is to make us **SPIRITUALLY MATURE**.
- The Holy Spirit's role is to **GLORIFY GOD** through us.
- Our choice is to either **WALK IN** the Spirit, or **SILENCE** the Spirit in our lives.  
*Put yourself in obedience and see me do what I want to do in your life.*

**Something to remember:**

*Can't do it without the Holy Spirit. You need him else you would be frustrated.*

## **Growth Group Study Questions**

For the week of February 5, 2023

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### **QUICK REVIEW**

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### **MY EXPERIENCES**

1. We have all had different experiences and influences that affect our view of how God's Spirit works. As you look back on years past, how would you describe your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Has it changed over time? If so, explain.

2. Can you think of a place or situation where you typically seem most tuned in to God's Spirit guiding, speaking, or encouraging you? (Examples: time alone, listening to a sermon, personal study, talking or processing with others, etc.)

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. This weekend we heard how the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives to mature and grow us. Galatians 5:13-26 adds to this picture of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of Galatia and our lives. **Read the passage regarding the Holy Spirit at work ...**

- a) **Circle / highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- b) **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
- c) **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

2. Looking back at the fruit of the Spirit, which one is most challenging for you to put into action?

Is there a specific environment or relationship that makes it more challenging?

Is there one area you have grown in more than the others?

Is there one area that comes more easily than the others?

3. What's your response to this quote?

"I believe there is a reason Paul listed these virtues and moved on. They aren't given to us as goals to pursue. Why? Because you and I cannot produce fruit...That's not our responsibility. The Holy Spirit is the producer. We are merely the bearers. The fruit of the Spirit was never intended to be a demonstration of our dedication and resolve. It is the evidence of our dependency on and sensitivity to the promptings of the Spirit."

*Charles Stanley in The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life*

4. Since God's Spirit is at work in our lives, we want to make sure we are staying in tune with how He wants to work. As you read the passages below, how do they help you understand and remind you of how the Holy Spirit works in your life?

**John 16:12-15 / 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-13 / 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 / Acts 9:31 / Romans 8:26-27**

5. Is there one of these verses you need to be more aware of than others when it comes to understanding the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life?

### **HOMEWORK**

1. Sin or lack of paying attention to how the Spirit is leading can cause us to misread, not be aware of, or even blatantly reject the Spirit's guidance. Is there anything in the following verses you want to put extra focus on to ensure you're following the Spirit as He leads?

**Acts 17:11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 / Psalm 139:23-24**

2. Is there anything specific you sense the Holy Spirit wants you to grow in, guide you toward, or people you hope to reach? If so, write it down and act on it.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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### **THE ACTS CHALLENGE**

Do you want to get more out of Acts than just hearing it during the Sunday Morning Services? There are 28 chapters in Acts. Try reading or listening to a chapter a day for 28 days and see how it will grow your understanding in our series on the Book of Acts–Holy Spirit Infused Church.

