



Acts Chapter 1

Intro

What do you know, or think you know about the Holy Spirit, and what would you like to know about the Holy Spirit? Discuss.

Read:

1 In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about **all that Jesus began to do and to teach** **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he 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. **4** 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. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

All Jesus began to do and teach... The church is the hands, feet, heart and voice of Jesus on earth. The Holy Spirit helps us be like and live for Jesus, as the mission is incomplete.

Discuss the things that Jesus did and that Jesus taught, and then talk about how the Holy Spirit helps us to continue the mission of Jesus.

Read:

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus’ life and ministry was one lived by the power of the Holy Spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit and anointed by the Holy Spirit. He is the one who has the power to pour out the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived his whole life in obedience to God by the leading, filling and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Why? So we could too. Consider the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus:

- Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit Lk 1:35
- Jesus will baptise us in the Holy Spirit- Lk 3:16
- The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus at the start of his ministry. Lk 3:21
- Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit, and led by the Spirit Lk 4:1
- Jesus walked in the power of the Spirit Lk 4:14
- Jesus’ life and ministry was prophesied by Isaiah as being anointed by the Holy Spirit- a text Jesus applied to himself as being fulfilled in him. Lk 4:18-19

- Jesus taught that God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. Lk 11:13
- Jesus promised his followers that they would be baptised with the Holy Spirit. He taught them that this was a gift from God the Father. Ac 1:6-8
- Luke 10:21- Jesus full of joy in the Holy Spirit

In Acts 10:36-38, Peter summarises the life and ministry of Jesus as follows: “You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.**”

If we too receive exactly the same Holy Spirit and Power as Jesus did, what do you imagine God has in store for us in our lives and in this world? Discuss

Read:

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 **They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.**

Notice here how the church began? A spiritual community joining as one in prayer. Discuss.

A Story

There was once a man by the name of Joseph Foy who started a prayer meeting in his little home with his wife. He was born in 1809, over 200 years ago. That prayer meeting turned into a church and grew in number. Eventually they purchased some land and built a meeting place. But by the early 1900s they had outgrown that, and in 1922 they completed a bigger building and bought more land. At its peak, the church had several hundred members and hundreds of children and youth. It sent out dozens of people in mission around the world, raised millions for God’s work, saw hundreds come to Christ, and has been worshiped God and testified to Jesus for 160 years. The prayer meeting that started a great work of God 160 years ago continues. That prayer meeting is still going. It’s called Kew Baptist church. And it is still going thanks to the person, power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Further thoughts:

If your experience of the Spirit does not lead you closer to Christ and closer to other brothers and sister in Christ, it was not a God encounter. The Holy Spirit does not want to exalt you and make you look great, sorry! The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus and wants to help you be like Jesus and live for Jesus.

A fuller and more truthful understanding of, and relationship to Holy Spirit will lead to:

1. Deeper and more devoted love for Christ
2. A hunger to more fully engage with the truth of God's Word
3. Greater love toward fellow followers of Jesus
4. A humble willingness to serve and be committed to a local Christian gathering- a church.
5. A growing holiness and character transformation
6. A passion for mission and justice.

A Prayer

Father God, we ask you to give us your Holy Spirit now.

Holy Spirit come, fill us with the love of God;

Holy Spirit come, affirm that we are God's children;

Holy Spirit come, lead us in the way of Jesus;

Holy Spirit come, give us power to testify about Jesus;

Holy Spirit come, let your joy fill our hearts;

Holy Spirit come, lead us in the truth of Jesus, Amen.

A prayer for all day everyday: Holy Spirit, help me be like Jesus and live for Jesus.