

Growing Deeper
Acts Redux

Week One – Catalyst One: The Holy Spirit
Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-7

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. Read Acts 1:1-11. Who wrote this book? What do you know about him? (Read Luke 1:1-4 for insight.)
2. How is this author distinct from the apostles? Why do you think God chose a person like this to report on the historic events of Christ's life and the early acts of the apostles?
3. As best you can, describe what happened after the resurrection, before the ascension of Jesus into heaven. What were the disciples doing? Where were they? What was Jesus doing? Was Jesus with them day and night or did He come and go miraculously? (See 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 for additional information.)
4. According to verse two in Acts chapter one, what did Jesus discuss with the disciples during this time? How would His conversations be different from those He'd had prior to the events of Holy Week and Easter?
5. The disciples were instructed by Jesus to wait in Jerusalem until something happened. For what did He ask them to wait?
6. He mentioned that this moment had been foretold by Him and by His Father. Check out John 14:16-17, 25-26 and John 16:7-15 to read those teachings of Jesus. Why is it important for Jesus to remind them (and us) of those predictions?
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for the Lord to remind you that God is only as far away as a prayer. Allow time for God to respond to your prayer through quiet meditation as you focus on the thoughts of this study.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

8. Read Acts 1:6-11. What did the disciples expect Jesus would do next? What do you think caused them to anticipate this outcome?
9. What does this tell you about your expectations and the reality of how God often works in your life?
10. Someone has said, "Stop asking God to bless what you are doing, and instead ask for the wisdom to do what God is

blessing.” What’s the difference? Which do you find yourself doing most?

11. Read Acts 1:7. What does this verse mean? What’s the difference between God knowing when and what will happen and God causing things to happen? Certainly God can cause outcomes in our life, but does that mean He causes all things?
12. Sometimes people get angry with God because things go badly. How does free will (yours and others) and the presence of the devil in the world contribute to bad outcomes? Is God to blame?
13. Jesus predicted that the apostles would receive the power of the Holy Spirit to enable their work. Read John 14:25-26 and John 16:7-15. What, specifically, did Jesus predict would be the mission of the Holy Spirit?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for an open spirit to accept God’s redirection from what you anticipate to what He has in mind.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

15. Read Acts 1:8-11. What is the relationship of the places or the significance of the sequence in which Jesus says His disciples will be called to make a witness? Is there a principle being taught that applies to your life?
16. Have you ever had an ascension-type moment when you were left standing speechless over something you saw or experienced? Explain.
17. There is a time for everything under heaven. A time to learn. A time to be inspired. A time to act. What time is it for you?
18. What is the significance of Acts 1:11? What difference does it make that Jesus will come again?
19. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16. Why did Paul consider this detail about the second coming of Jesus to be important?
20. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. What does the Bible mean when it says our works will be tested by fire? Can your accomplishments be lost and you be saved? Explain.

21. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for the Lord's return and for the life you live until then to make a difference in things that matter.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

22. Read Acts 2:1-7. What do you know about the Old Testament celebration of Pentecost that preceded this event? Do you think there is any correlation between the two? If so, what?

23. The Greek work for Spirit is *pneuma* which means "wind." Pneumatic tools are tools that are powered by pressurized air. Why do you think the work of the Holy Spirit is compared to air? (See Jesus' words in John 3:8 for insight.)

24. The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the mystery part of God, or the unknown person of the Trinity. Read again John 16:13-15. Jesus predicted the Holy Spirit would not draw attention to Himself. What is the Holy Spirit's main purpose? Review Martin Luther's explanation of the third article of the Apostle's Creed for help. (You can search online to find it.) ☺

25. What does this tell you about people or Christian ministries that emphasize the Holy Spirit or the gifts of the Holy Spirit over the person and work of Jesus, our Savior?

26. What was one of the main indicators that the apostles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus?

27. Are all the promises God made to the apostles also promised to you? They were inspired to write Scripture. Is that promise still valid for Christians today? (See Revelation 22:18-19 for more insight.)

28. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for God to send an extra measure of His Holy Spirit into your life to grant you greater courage, an increase your faith and a better understanding of God's Word.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

29. Look again at Acts 2:1-7. How do you know that the tongues in which the apostles spoke were legitimate languages and not unintelligible prayer language with no understood meaning?

30. How might the gift of actual languages been a powerful tool for the apostles as they went into the whole world? Besides understanding and speaking other languages, what effect might it have on foreigners to suddenly hear a stranger from another place and culture perfectly speak their language?

31. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-6. What limitations does Paul place on speaking in tongues? Is it considered the most important of spiritual gifts? Explain your answer.

32. The apostles had a near impossible mission. What do we know about their backgrounds? How do these men compare to the men who were hiding in the upper room after the crucifixion of Jesus? How do you explain this change of heart?

33. We call God, the Father, the Creator. We call Jesus, The Savior. We call the Holy Spirit, The Sanctifier. What do those terms mean to you?

34. We confess that we pray to the Father through the merits of Jesus Christ, who gives us the right to call God our Father and expect a father's blessing. Read Romans 8:9-17 and especially verse 26. What do these verses teach us about the work of the Holy Spirit?

35. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Reread Acts 2:1-7, be still and let God speak to you.