

# ACTS

## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

### Young Adults United Studies – the book of Acts

**Intro** - We've chosen to study the book of Acts because it's where the story of the early church begins—it's the powerful bridge between the ministry of Jesus and the mission of the church throughout history. In Acts, we see Jesus faithfully building His church just as He promised, and we watch that work ripple out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. As we walk through this book together, we're not just looking back; we're being reminded that we're part of the same story. The same Spirit who empowered the first believers empowers us today. We believe this study will encourage our hearts, strengthen our faith, and help us see our place in God's unfolding plan that spans generations.

### 4/15: Acts 2 – The Spirit Comes and the Church Begins

- Key Moments: Pentecost, Peter's sermon, 3,000 baptized, early church community.
- Theme: The Holy Spirit empowers believers for witness, and the church is born in power and unity.
- Discussion Idea: What does it mean for the Spirit to dwell in us today? What defined the early church community?

**Acts 2** *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>[a]</sup> as the Spirit enabled them.*

<sup>5</sup> *Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.*

<sup>7</sup> *Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"*

<sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

<sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## **Teaching Points -**

### 1. God Fulfills His Promises through the Spirit (vv. 1–4)

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was not random—it fulfilled Jesus' promise (Acts 1:8) and Old Testament prophecies (like Joel 2). The Spirit came with power and filled every believer, marking a new chapter in God's redemptive plan.

**Question** – How do we benefit from the Holy Spirit's presence?

### 2. The Spirit Unites Across Cultures and Languages (vv. 5–11)

The miracle of tongues wasn't chaotic—it was strategic. People from every nation heard "the wonders of God" in their own language, showing that the gospel is for all people, everywhere.

**Question** – Why did this happen? How does this miracle make sense in terms of God's purpose to spread the gospel to all people?

### 3. God Often Moves in Ways That Confuse or Offend (vv. 12–13)

Even in the midst of a miracle, some scoffed and mocked. This reminds us that spiritual things aren't always recognized or appreciated by everyone—but that doesn't make them any less true or powerful.

**Question** – In what ways does opposition not discredit the message but even add to its validity?

### 4. The Spirit Gives Boldness to Speak the Gospel (v. 14)

Peter, who had once denied Jesus, now stands boldly to proclaim Him. The difference? The Holy Spirit. When God fills us, He equips us to stand and speak with courage.

**Question** – When a person speaks boldly for God in what ways does that show that they are committed, and sold-out for Jesus?

## 5. Jesus Is the Risen and Exalted Messiah (vv. 29–33, 36)

Peter anchors the message in Jesus—His death, resurrection, and exaltation. The core of the gospel is not just good advice, but good news: Jesus is alive and reigning.

**Question** – If Jesus does not remain the center, focal point of the message, then what are some of the things that can creep in to take His place?

## 6. The Gospel Cuts to the Heart and Calls for a Response (vv. 37–39)

The people were “cut to the heart,” and Peter offers a clear call: Repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gospel demands more than admiration—it calls for surrender.

**Question** – How might we put this experience in other terms. What is this called when someone is cut to the heart and in what ways is that good?

## 7. The Spirit Forms a New Kind of Community (vv. 42–44)

The early church was marked by devotion—to teaching, fellowship, prayer, and generosity. The Spirit doesn’t just save individuals; He creates a new family that lives differently.

**Question** – What does it take to emphasize this and live this out in our own lives? How can we live this same way today?

## 8. God Continues to Grow His Church (vv. 46–47)

As the believers lived joyfully and sincerely, God added to their number daily. The witness of the church was powerful not just in words, but in how they lived together in love and unity.

**Question** – Explain why words are necessary and also talk about how actions that fit and compliment are also so needed. Why both?