

Acts Chapter 1

"The Acts of the Apostles" / The acts of the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION:

- Acts is a historical account / book, covering the first 30 years of the Church, written in approximately 63 AD, possibly in Rome while attending Paul.
- Like the Gospel of Luke, the book of Acts was intended to set an orderly account of the events.
- Acts is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke, a letter written to Theophilus.
- **Colossians 4:14** describes Luke as a "physician", a position normally held by a slave, Acts was written by a slave.
- Luke was also a Gentile. The Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts are the only books in the New Testament written by a Gentile.
- Theophilus is thought to have either been Luke's master, or a patron who purchased Luke's freedom so that he could accompany Paul, and minister to him. Luke made considerable effort to communicate the Gospel message back to his former owner in the form of two letters.
- Acts is a natural bridge between the 4 Gospels and the Epistles. Imagine reading to the end of any of the Gospels (Luke ends with the Apostles in the Temple praising God) then getting into Romans - we'd have no clue how we got there.
- The last recorded fact or statement about or by Jesus in each of the Gospels is repeated in the first chapter of Acts:

1. **Matthew 28:6** His resurrection. **Acts 1:3**

Acts 1:3 "To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days..."

2. **Mark 16:19** His ascension. **Acts 1:10**

Acts 1:10 "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up..."

3. **Luke 24:49** The promise of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 1:8**

Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."

4. **John 21:22** The promise of His 2nd coming. **Acts 1:11**

Acts 1:11 "... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

- The "great commission" from all 4 Gospels is confirmed in the book of Acts.
- The book of Acts records the beginning of the spiritual body we call the Church, the founding of the various churches to whom the epistles are directed.
- The book of Acts represents the "ideal" for the modern church, our first love.
- The book of Acts gives us a blue print for the basic construction of the church in **Acts 2:42**.

Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

1. **The Apostles' doctrine:** The study of God's word.
 2. **Fellowship:** The gathering together of the saints to glorify God, and edify the believer.
 3. **Breaking of bread:** Communion, remembering the Lord's sacrifice on the cross.
 4. **Prayer:** Corporate prayer & personal prayer, communication with the Lord.
- People will ask at times what the church is supposed to look like, and I reply that it is a combination of things.
 - Did Jesus teach about it? Is it demonstrated or lived out in the book of Acts? Do the epistles describe or address it? All those things rolled up is what the church is supposed to look like.
 - The outline or "key" to the book of Acts is found in **Acts 1:8**.

Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

1. **Ch's 1-7:** Jesus working by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles in Jerusalem.
 2. **Ch's 8-12:** → Judea & Samaria.
 3. **Ch's 13-28:** → To the ends of the earth.
- Acts is also the story of three ministries, of **Peter** in Chapters 1-12, and of **Paul** in chapters 13-28. **Chapters 1-28 = the ministry of the Holy Spirit!**
 - The book of Acts in some ways portrays the ideals of the Church as guided by the Holy Spirit, not long after the books of Acts transitions into later parts of

church history we see the need for various corrections as described in the epistles and the book of Revelation.

Galatians 3:1, 3 ¹“Oh foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?” - ³“Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

- There is no proper ending to this book; it stops abruptly with Paul last seen preaching in his house in Rome. Why? Because the history of the Church is still being written, it's continuing in our present time.

V: 1 Former account (“logos”) / treatise – Gospel of Luke.

- The Gospel of Luke opens up the same way, as a letter to Theophilus.

Luke 1:3 “It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order / an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,”

- “Perfect understanding...” - “to follow closely”, “to investigate.” Luke did his research concerning Jesus. He interviewed the eyewitnesses. Luke spoke directly to Mary, his is the only Gospel that records Mary’s story. He wrote an orderly account of the facts.
- It appears that Luke joined Paul in the 16th chapter of the book of Acts when Paul was in Troas. They were forbidden by the Spirit to enter into Bithynia, having just come from Galatia, Paul suffered through various health issues and it was pretty handy to have a doctor on their ministry team.
- Theo-philus = “Lover of God” - “Friend of God”, seems to be written to a specific man who apparently loved the Lord. There is a possibility, given the times of persecution that this could have been a pseudonym intended to protect the recipient. It appears directed to a specific person, but we can all receive it as “friends of God”.
- Describing all the things that Jesus “began” to do, meaning He is not finished, nor is this record complete.

John 21:25 “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”

“*To do*” – Jesus is the ultimate “doer” of the Word. That’s the order of things as a teacher, doing 1st then teaching. Doing it first gives credence to the teaching.

Romans 15:18 “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not wrought / accomplished by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed.”

- It was this joining of Jesus’ behavior and His Word / teaching that made Him such a good teacher because there was consistency between the two - no hypocrisy!

Matthew 7:28-29 “²⁸And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine: ²⁹For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

- One of the positive aspects or benefits of being a doer of the word is that we will be better witnesses and preachers of the word. Being a doer of the word will make us more effective in our witness.

1 John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

James 2:17-20 “¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”

- Jesus is a doer of the Word, and He is our teacher! Again leading by example.

Matthew 4:23 “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”

Psalms 32:8 “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.”

Jesus touched the minds and hearts of His disciples:

Luke 24:45 “And He opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures.”

- Jesus had already opened their minds to the scriptures, what we’re about to see is the application.

V: 2 This is an account of what Jesus began to do and teach, right up until His ascension; then it's about the effect of what He said and did, the result of all that.

- Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit gave commandments to His Apostles, His “sent out ones”.

Matthew 28:19-20 Teach, make disciples.

Mark 16:15-20 Preaching and healing.

John 21:15-22 Feed my sheep & follow me.

- Obedience or disobedience to the person of the Holy Spirit is no different than to obedience or disobedience to God the Father, or to Jesus.

Isaiah 30:21 “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, and when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

- Often times it is the Spirit of God speaking to us. When we are obedient He is pleased and we are fruitful - but the opposite is true as well.

Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

- We grieve the Holy Spirit by being disobedient to Him, not doing what He would prompt us to do. We grieve the Holy Spirit by being disobedient to the Word of God.

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?”

“^{2b} After that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments...”

Psalms 143:8 “Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.”

- In hearing God's word, knowing His will, there is an implied expectation of obedience. Hearing must be coupled with doing.

“Chosen”: G1586 eklegomai – chosen out of.

- Similar to G1577 ekklesia – the called out ones – church.

Matthew 16:18 “... I will build my church,...”



V: 3 “*He shewed Himself...*” They never knew when Jesus would appear in their midst, neither do we!

“*He showed Himself alive*” (G2198. zao, dzah'-o) – Not as a ghost, or a spirit, but physically with a resurrected body.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick “alive”, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Answering the Sadducees; did not God say...

Matthew 22:32 “I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

“*Passion*” – is better translated “suffering”.(NKJV)

“... *many infallible proofs*”.

- WWII – holocaust
- Video footage – angles / perspective
- Twin towers

- Un-deniable truth, Eye witness testimony, Jesus is the truth.
- Courtroom: / Gospel accounts: Apostles, disciples, 500+

“*Being seen by them*” (G3700). “optanomai”; to gaze, i.e. with wide-open eyes, as at something remarkable; and thus differing from G991, which denotes simply voluntary observation; and from G1492, which expresses merely mechanical, passive or casual vision; still more emphatically it signifies an earnest and continued inspection.

- Jesus’ resurrection is the cornerstone of the Gospel, without it there is no Gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 “³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures; ⁵And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸And last of all He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.”

- Our legal system is based on “jurisprudence” meaning that a fact can be established by the testimony of witnesses. Jesus made it a point to appear to a great many “witnesses” so that His resurrection would be indisputable. A good many people went to their death for not recanting what they had seen.

Deuteronomy 17:6 “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.” (Mormonism / Joseph Smith - one witness)

Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witness, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

- **Jesus appeared in bodily form**, not an apparition or ghost, to:
 1. Mary Magdalene.
 2. The other women.
 3. Peter.
 4. 2 disciples on road to Emmaus.
 5. 10 Apostles in upper room, minus Thomas.
 6. 11 Apostles in upper room with Thomas.
 7. 7 disciples on shore of Galilee
 8. James, 1 Corinthians 15
 9. 500 + at one time.
 10. Walked with disciples to Bethany and ascended before them into Heaven.
 - Refuting the story concocted by the Pharisees and Roman soldiers.
-

- The beginning of the empowerment starts with the resurrection of Jesus, leading to the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

John 11:25-26 “²⁵Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believeest

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 “³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures; ⁵And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸And last of all He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time.”

- The power of the Holy Spirit is the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

“Speaking about the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God” – Jesus only talked about the Kingdom of God / Heaven, a future time of great splendor and peace. A future time of un-broken fellowship with Him!

- Score at the coliseum – latest styles of sandals – the last toga party.

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

- This doesn't just refer to profanity or course jokes...
- Pastor Chuck testimony - very uncomfortable ride in silence, no superfluous conversations.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 “¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

Malachi 3:16 “Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.”

Matthew 6:10 “Thy kingdom come. Thy will (conversation) be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

- We could & should be doing the same thing here on earth conversationally as they are in heaven

V: 4 ***“Being assembled together”*** – Jesus spoke to them...

Hebrews 10:24-25 “²⁴And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Proverbs 8:34 “Blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching daily at My gates, waiting at the posts of My doors.”

Psalms 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

Acts 2:1 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.”

- Jesus has specifically called these men, and He will specifically equip them for what He has called them to.

Isaiah 42:6 “I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;”

- Wait for the promise of the Father, which is the Holy Spirit.

“Which ye have heard of Me.”

Luke 24:49 “And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

John the Baptist speaking of Jesus:

Matthew 3:11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is different than the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-17 “¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

- When a believer receives Jesus they at that moment indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the overflowing of the Holy Spirit in our lives, now the Spirit flows from us - empowering the believer to do in the Spirit that which is impossible in the flesh, apart from the Spirit.

John 7:37-39 “^{37b}... if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.”

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is something that was prophesied of:

Joel 2:28-29 “²⁸And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.”

V: 5 Now Jesus is drawing a further distinction between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Baptism in the Spirit is the real baptism, water baptism is ritual baptism, it's symbolic of the real thing. It symbolizes our death and resurrection, the old life being dead, the new life just beginning.
- Water baptism, performed by John or another servant represents repentance, death, burial, and resurrection from the old life unto the new.

John the Baptist testified:

Matthew 3:11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

- Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the Baptizer, the Holy Spirit is the element into which a person is immersed, the issue is no longer repentance, the issue is love.
 - In the Old Testament, Prophecy was the sign of being empowered / baptized by the Spirit.
 - The baptism of the Holy Spirit is just one facet of our relationship with the Holy Spirit, referred to in the Greek as the “Parakletos” or “Comforter”.
 - Three relationships with the Holy Spirit; *with* us (para), *in* us (ene), *upon* us (epi).
1. The Holy Spirit is with us or comes along side us when we are convicted of our sin and made aware of our need for the Savior.

John 16:18 “And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

2. When we accept Jesus as Lord, the Holy Spirit indwells us, resides within our hearts.

John 14:17 “Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

- The apostles had to go through the same process: **Nothing is assumed, there is always a specific event for each of us.**

John 20:22 “And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, receive the Holy Spirit.”

3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the empowerment, the “dunamis” or the outpouring of the Spirit; we’re not just a vessel, but a funnel. **Acts 1:5, 8. John 7:37**

- How do we receive this baptism? Same as with salvation, ask by faith.

Luke 11:11-13 “¹¹If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Of if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

- V: 6 The disciples are looking for the restoration of the kingdom to it’s former glory.

- Actually they’ve always been looking for that event to take place:

Matthew 24:3 “And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

- The Jews generally had an eye towards the restoration of the kingdom of David, and the glory of Solomon:

Isaiah 1:26 “I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, the city of righteousness, the faithful city.”

Amos 9:11 “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old;”

- Are you going to restore the kingdom now, as prophesied?
- The disciples had been shocked when Jesus had been crucified; they expected the Kingdom then. Now He’s back from the dead and surely it’s time now, right?
- A legitimate question – the Messiah is come back, also it’s in line with verse 3; “speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.”

- Their motives weren't always pure in this regard as they often argued about who would be the greatest. That is in a way encouraging to all of us, because our motives aren't always pure, none of us is perfect – and God uses us anyway!
- We're on the other end of things and we should be ready and waiting, asking it is today Lord? Because it could be - we need to be ready for His appearing or our dis-appearing.
- Waiting for the true restoration of His kingdom - my motives aren't pure either, I want out of this place!

V: 7 It is not for us to know, we are not to know everything.

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His Divine Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

- He has given us all the things that we need, but certainly not all the things that are, or specifically the exact timing of various end time events like exactly when the rapture will occur or the exact timing of Jesus' second coming.

Matthew 24:36, 42, 44 “³⁶But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” - “⁴²Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” - “⁴⁴Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 “¹But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. ²For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. ³For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. ⁴But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 “⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- We are told to watch, wait, and be ready. Live in expectancy, occupy!
- If Jesus said that only the Father knows the time, then it is blasphemous for man to set a time.

- What is the connection between their question in V: 6 and Jesus' response in verses 7 & 8?
- Presumably they are asking this question again because in part they know that they will reign with Jesus in His kingdom. Jesus responds with two points.
 1. You won't know ahead of time when these things will happen.
 2. You will have access to more power than any earthly king!

V: 8 **"But"**; contrast, their question about the kingdom is really about power and where they are going to fit into the scheme of things. Jesus says they won't know the answer to that question, but the real issue being power – that you will receive, just not the way you were thinking.

- The power of the Holy Spirit is not simply for our emotional excitement or personal benefit, but that the Gospel would be communicated to a lost and dying world that needs it so desperately. (Distinction between purpose and benefit.)

"Ye / You" – personal.

- John the Baptist prophesied this event.

Matthew 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

"Ye shall..." not you might, or you should - but **"Ye shall..."** it's a given certainty, God is going to do this, it is part of God's plan - so it will happen.

"Receive power..." All power is given unto Jesus. (Dynamis)

Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."

- It's by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are changed, transformed.

2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Zechariah 4:6 “Then he answered and saith unto me, saying, this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, not my might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”

- The effect of this was first noted in Antioch where believers were first called “Christians” or “like Christ”, not by themselves but by outsiders. **Acts 11:26**

Speaking of Paul:

Acts 11:26 “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

- Jesus is the one who builds His church:

Matthew 16:18 “... I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Romans 12:6-8 & 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 = the gifts.
Galatians 5:22-23 = the result.

- The power of the church is from the Holy Spirit, not from man.

Again:

Zechariah 4:6 “... not my might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”

“... *ye shall be witnesses*”, not what we do but who we are, not our deeds but telling what great things God has done.

- “*The light that shines the farthest will shine the brightest at home*”

Dr. Oswald J. Smith.

- This is also an outline for the book as a whole: (Similar to Revelation 1:19)

- **Chapters 1-7**: Jesus working through the Holy Spirit, through the Apostles in *Jerusalem*.
- **Chapters 8-12**: The ministry of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in *Judea & Samaria*.
- **Chapters 13-28**: Jesus / Holy Spirit working to the *uttermost part of the earth*.

- There is one inlet of spiritual power - that's the Holy Spirit.
- **But there are five outlets of spiritual power in the life of a believer.**

- The gifts of the Spirit are “manifestations” of power which we will talk about - but there are five outlets of spiritual power:

1. **Your life:** When you’re walking in the Spirit, walking with the Lord as John said:

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

- There is an outlet of spiritual power that emanates from us and it affects people around you. You may not even be conscious of it, but people recognize that there is a difference between you and the worldly person.
- Conversations clean up; people recognize and feel the difference of your life when you’re walking close to the Lord.

2. **Your words:** The Spirit of God can use your words to minister comfort, hope, encouragement, healing, love, and strength.

2 Corinthians 4:13 “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;”

- When your words are anointed by the Spirit, you can speak dynamically and powerfully, and touch the hearts of others.

3. **Your service:** Led by the Holy Spirit, what you do for the Lord can have such an impact in the lives of others.

Jesus said:

Matthew 10:42 “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

- Whether you show a prophet hospitality, or give a cold cup of water in the name of the Lord. As you serve the Lord, it becomes an outlet of spiritual power to minister to others.

4. **Your money:** Money is the closest thing to omnipotence, limitless power that you can possess.

- But it is also the most impotent / powerless thing you can spend on yourself!
- The money we release for the purposes of God can become an outlet of spiritual power.

When Paul wrote to the church in Philippi about giving:

Philippians 4:17 “Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.”

- Paul saw their giving as investing in the things of the kingdom, and from their giving, fruit would abound to their account.

5. Your prayer: By far the greatest outlet of spiritual power is prayer because it's done in the spiritual realm and is not limited to your locality, or by your words, your works, or your money.

Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

- The greatest thing we can do is pray, and we can't do the smallest thing until we've prayed.
- You cannot accomplish any worthwhile work for God apart from prayer.

The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

Exercising the Gifts of the Spirit

Scriptural term: mentioned in all four Gospels:

Matthew 3:11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

Mark 1:8 Luke 3:16

John 1:32-33 “³²And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him. ³³And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”

- All four Gospels speak of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus.
- Jesus is our example, He did not begin His public ministry until after this had occurred.
- This is different than what Paul talks about in Ephesians:

Ephesians 1:13-14 “¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.”

The purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to empower the believer:

1. To witness of Jesus.
2. To live the victorious Christian life.
3. To exercise the gifts of the Spirit.

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Manifestations or workings (dispensations) of the Holy Spirit:

- Different Greek words are used to describe the workings or different manifestations of the Holy Spirit; different dispensations.

1. **Para** / along side, with us.
2. **En** / in the life of a believer.
3. **Epi** / upon or flowing from the life of a believer.

1. **Para**: the Holy Spirit is with us, along side us when we are convicted of our sin and made aware of our need for a Savior.

John 14:16-17 “¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

John 16:8 “And when He (the Holy Spirit) is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”

2. **En**: The Holy Spirit works within the life of a believer, indwelling the believer:

John 14:17 “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

John 20:22 “And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost:”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

- The Holy Spirit is given to us, given in earnest, as a down payment, an assurance of things to come, and by the Holy Spirit we are “sealed.”

Speaking of Jesus:

Ephesians 1:13-14 “¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.”

3. **EPI** / upon - The Holy Spirit pours out & flows from the life of a believer:

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witness unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

John 1:32 “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him.”

John 7:37-38 “³⁷In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

5 Examples found in the book of Acts:

Acts 2:4 (1-11) “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 8:14-17 “¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Paul received the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 9:17 “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.”

Cornelius's house:

Acts 10:44 “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.”

Acts 19:1-6 “¹And it came to pass, that, while Apolos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ²he said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. ³And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, unto John’s baptism. ⁴Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

The gifts of the Holy Spirit, different than the dispensations of the Spirit:

Romans 12:3-9 (Practical)	1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-31 (Miraculous)	Ephesians 4:11-12 (Practical)
Faith	Word of wisdom	Ministry
Prophecy	Word of knowledge	Apostles
Ministry	Faith	Prophets
Teaching	Healing	Evangelists
Exhortation	Miracles	Pastors
Giving	Prophecy	Teachers
Ruling	Discerning of spirits	
Mercy	Diverse kinds of tongues	
	Interpretations of tongues.	
	Helps	
	Governments / ruling.	
	Teaching	
	Apostles	

How do we receive this baptism of the Spirit?

Luke 11:10-13 “¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ¹¹If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹²Of if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy spirit to them that ask him?”

John 7:37-38 “³⁷In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

- We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by faith:

Galatians 3:2; 14 “²This only would I learn of you, received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” - “²⁴That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

- We see the effect of the Holy Spirit upon the lives of the Apostles, before and after their baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Just prior to Jesus’ resurrection: the disciples abandoned the Lord, they seemed in-effective.
- After Jesus’ resurrection and the baptism in the Holy Spirit: Peter preaches boldly with great wisdom – 3,000 people get saved.
- All the Apostles go on to live awesome Spirit filled lives, glorifying Jesus with their respective deaths.

Being filled with the Spirit is a continual action.

Ephesians 5:15-18 “¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess: but be filled (continually) with the Spirit;”

Quenching the Spirit hinders:

(disobeying / un confessed sin.)

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 “¹⁹Quench not the Spirit. ²⁰Despise not prophesyings. ²¹Prove (test discern, scrutinize) all things; hold fast that which is good. ²²Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

1 Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

- The gift of tongues edifies the believer and enhances prayer and worship; and is always focused towards the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:22-40 - Paul offers clarification on the gift of tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:22 (corrected) “Wherefore tongues are for a sign to them that believe, not to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe, but for them which believe not.

V: 9 Jesus had finished speaking to them, He had given them all the things that they had need of, the tools to do the job. Just as He has for us.

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His Divine Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

John 15:5 **Matthew 19:26** “book ends” on empowerment.

- Clouds, long look, like a lost balloon drifting up into the clouds.
- Cloud of witnesses? Shekinah glory of God? Both? Either way it was cool!

V: 9-10 Jesus’ ascension into Heaven.

Parallel accounts:

Mark 16:19 “So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.”

Luke 24:51 “And it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.”

- Jesus told His disciple that this would happen:

John 14:3 “³In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”

John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.”

- As much as they were told, sometimes you're never really prepared for what you see take place - this might be one of those situations for the Apostles.
- Jesus' ascension into Heaven is a significant and symbolic event that sends a real message to each of us. God the Father set the standard, Jesus met that standard, Jesus is the righteous standard.

John 16:7 “⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. ⁸And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹Of sin, because they believe not on Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more; ¹¹Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. ¹²I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.”

- God the Father set the standard very high, un-obtainably high.

Genesis 17:1 “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, “I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect.”

1 Corinthians 6:9 “⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived...”

Revelation 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

- Righteousness is the standard for entry into Heaven, to be in God's presence. As Jesus ascended into Heaven it was a visible proof that He was accepted by the Father, that He alone had lived a righteous life, that His sacrifice was acceptable, and that He alone was worthy.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- This was the fruition of the Holy Spirit convicting / reprovng the world of righteousness.

V: 10-11 Watching Jesus ascend into Heaven, blown away.

John 20:12 “And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.”

- God purposefully sent two messengers, presumably angels, to the disciples to get them going.
- What was the hurry? If they had stood there an hour longer, would it have mattered much?
- What was the message? JESUS IS COMING BACK! There is no time to waste.

Matthew 24:42-44 “⁴²Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. ⁴⁴Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

- Re: cloud of witnesses vs: regular clouds:

“... *shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.*”

Mark 13:26 “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.”

Revelation 19:14 “And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”

- The last recorded words of Jesus in the Bible:

Revelation 22:20 “... Surely I am coming quickly.” (No time to waste)

V: 12 Back to Jerusalem, in obedience to what Jesus had told them – waiting for the promise of the Father (V:4).

Map / pictures:



- **Luke 24:50** indicates that Jesus took the disciples to Bethany, located on the Eastern slope of the Mt. of Olives. (El Aziriyeh, Arabic name of present day village.) Jesus blessed them and ascended into Heaven.
- Here we see that the disciples return to Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives, described as a Sabbath day's journey; ½ to 2/3 of a mile away.
- Bethany itself is about 2 miles S/E from Jerusalem, about a 35 minute walk.
- As opposed to the “church of the ascension” on the Mt. of Olives.

V: 13 No mention of any other upper room or any change – This is probably the same upper room from the last supper.

- 11 remaining apostles: a diverse group of “common” men, all disciples of Jesus.

V: 14 A diverse group, yet gathered in one accord – in Jesus name.

This is a for-shadowing of what we read in the next chapter:

Acts 2:42 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

- *“Prayer produces unity, and unity empowers prayer.”*

Matthew 18:19-20 “¹⁸Verily I say to you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Psalm 133:1 “¹Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

Philippians 2:1-2 “¹If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, ²Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind,”

“With one accord”

- A very diverse group of men, yet they were in one accord.
- No back biting, for which there was much potential / fodder.
- No discussion of who would be the greatest, or jockeying for position.
- All of these things have faded away in light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- There is never another mention or question of who would be the greatest, it is settled.

Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

- ❖ Being focused on the resurrected Christ brings unity to a body of believers.

“in prayer and supplication...”

1 Timothy 2:1 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.”

- All are aspects of prayer:

- **Supplications:** 1162. deesis, deh'-ay-sis; from G1189; a petition:—prayer, request, supplication. **Can be to a man or to God**
- **Prayers:** 4335. proseuche, pros-yoo-khay'; from G4336; prayer (**worship**); an oratory (**out loud**) --X pray earnestly, prayer. **Only to God.**
- **Intercessions:** 1783. enteuxis, ent'-yook-sis; from G1793; an interview, i.e. (spec.) supplication **for others**:--intercession, prayer.
- **Giving of thanks:** 2169. **eucharistia**, yoo-khar-is-tee'-ah; from G2170; gratitude; act. grateful language (to God, as an act of worship):--thankfulness, (**giving of thanks** (-giving)).
- In almost every chapter of the book of Acts you'll see the disciples praying - and what happens as a result.

“... *Mary the mother of Jesus , and with his brethren.*”

- This is the last mention of Mary the mother of Jesus in the Bible. It doesn't appear that Mary played a significant role in the early church if nothing else by reason of her not being mentioned in the book of Acts.
- There are many erroneous teaching about Mary by other religions, but all of this began after the 4th century, and pretty much followed the Babylonian traditions about the “Queen of Heaven.”

Two or 3 examples:

1. In Jerusalem today, there is a Catholic church called the Church of Mary. Located on Mt. Zion, for many centuries it was thought to be the spot where Mary was buried. However, when the Catholics changed their theology and decided that Mary never died, but instead ascended into heaven, they permanently shut the doors of the Church of Mary. (Glorious assumption) (Immaculent conception)
2. In Rome, a Catholic church next to the railroad depot is also called the Church of Mary. In this church, a two-sided crucifix depicting Jesus on one side of the cross, and Mary on the other is prominently displayed. (Co-redemptrix)

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- Mary wasn't born of a virgin, didn't die on the cross, and she didn't ascend into heaven in the same manner as Jesus. She did give birth to Jesus! (Biblical)

“... *and with His brethren.*” (no perpetual virginity...) **Matthew 13:55**

- Jesus' brothers had previously been recorded as being skeptics and unbelievers, but here they are counted amongst the believers, later to be leaders in the church.
- Why? His resurrection! (infallible proof)

V: 15 Peter stood up and spoke, they were already in "one accord," praying and seeking God's will.

James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

- Peter was their natural leader, he's always listed first, he seems to initiate and often speaks for the group.

Luke 22:31-32 "³¹And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: ³²But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

- Jesus seemingly tells Peter to take care of the rest of the disciples, that's leadership.

V: 16 All scripture either has been or will be fulfilled, every part.

- Peter believed in and had total confidence in both the inspiration and the infallibility of the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17. "¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷that the man of God may be perfect / complete, thoroughly furnished for all good works."

2 Peter 1:20-21 "²⁰Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Matthew 5:18 "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

God's Word is true:

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God standeth for ever."

- God's Word is true and it has to be fulfilled.
- Concerning **Judas**: "Judas" is the Greek form of "Judah" which means "The praise of the Lord."
- Judas' betrayal was a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. (1/300)

Psalm 41:9 "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

V: 17 Numbered with the Apostles, part of the ministry – present in church.

1 John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

Matthew 13:24-30 parable of the tares.

Matthew 25:31-46 separation of the sheep and the goats.

V: 18 Judas' actions again fulfilling Biblical prophecy.

Zechariah 11:12-13 "12And I said unto them, if ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. 13And the Lord said unto me, cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord."

Matthew 27:3-10 T/T describing the transaction and Judas hanging himself.

- Why Jeremiah as opposed to Zechariah? Possibly a copyist error that crept in or an issue of prominence.
- Matthew's description fits the prophecy of Zechariah better, but Jeremiah is recorded as having the same information.

Jeremiah 18:2, 19:1-13, 32:6-9 all describe various elements of the same thing, but less specifically.

- Since elements of the prophecy are blended together from two different sources, both Jeremiah and Zechariah - only Jeremiah, the more prominent prophet is recorded by Matthew.

Matthew 27:5 indicates that Judas went out and hung himself. Here in acts we see what else happened as a result.

- Judas having hung himself, began to decompose in the heat. Either the branch upon which he had hung himself, the rope, or possibly his neck gave way and his bloated body fell to the ground violently and in it's decomposed state, burst open and his internal viscera gushed forth.

Pictures of Hinnom Valley / Aceldama: Map + P1-P7

- The thirty pieces of silver that Judas earned, then threw down onto the Temple floor was used by those priests to purchase a potter's field and because it was Judas' money, he gets credit for it. Typically, the field outside a potters shop was strewn with the broken shards of various pots and broken vessels, that having hardened in an imperfect state were useless to the potter. These fields being seen as useless, were often used to bury the dead.
- This particular field, purchased with the blood money for Jesus, His work on the cross was used to redeem broken vessels and lifeless bodies - us.

V: 19 It became known to all those living in Jerusalem.

V: 20 Again fulfilling Biblical prophecy:

- Speaking of those who would betray the Messiah.

Psalm 69:25 "Let their habitation be desolate; let none dwell in their tents."

Psalm 109:8 "Let his days be few, and let another take his office."

- These are somewhat obscure Psalms. I can only assume that it was by the power of the Holy Spirit that Peter was able to bring them to light and application.
- Without Peter's explanation / interpretation we might not have known that these scriptures were a prophetic reference to Judas and his betrayal of Jesus.
- Being filled with the Spirit, Peter may have been speaking a word of knowledge for now, or a prophesy about future events (Paul). I'm not certain.
- Future revelation determines that there were to be 12 Apostles:

Revelation 21:14 "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the lamb."

- The number of the Apostles is set, the issue is "who" are the 12.
- Paul is the 12th Apostle, which is not only bourn as the author of ½ of the New Testament, but Jesus actually chose him.

Jesus instructing Ananias re Saul:

Acts 9:10-16 “¹⁵... go, thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:...”

Bottom line: either Peter was wrong or Jesus was wrong, Peter was wrong.

(Not because Matthias is never again mentioned in scripture, Matthew, Thomas, and several others are never mentioned again either.)

- There is no continuing office of an apostle since there is no place in scripture where the churches are instructed to ordain apostles. Nor are the other requirements met.

V: 21 Seeking to be obedient to the scriptures, they begin to look for a replacement for Judas, not knowing that Saul of Tarsus is being prepared by the Lord.

- Peter begins to describe the qualifications of an Apostle:
 - If the current Apostles were incorrect in their nomination of Judas' replacement they also may not have been right on target about the qualifications*. Only God really knows.
1. *Accompanied all the rest of the Apostles while Jesus was with them.
 2. Having seen Jesus Christ (**1 Corinthians 9:1**)
 3. Having done miracles in Jesus' name; the 12 were sent out to heal, raise the dead, drive out demons – all of which Paul did as well in the name of Jesus.
 4. Matthias may or may not have done these things as well, but if he did it isn't recorded in the Bible for us, but it is with Paul.

V: 22 Being sanctified as a witnesses of Jesus Christ.

- The idea of being a “witness” is that of being able to testify of what you have seen.
- So Peter relates that this is one of the requirements to be an Apostle, someone who was a witness of those things Jesus said and did - from the beginning of His public ministry, meaning His baptism by John, His resurrection, and His ascension into Heaven.
- This wasn't just something that Peter dreamed up on his own, he was taking his cue's from the Lord.

Luke 22:28-30 “²⁸Ye are they which have continued with Me in My temptations.
²⁹And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father hath appointed unto Me;
³⁰That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

- **“must”** – like v: 16 which says “this scripture had to be fulfilled...” Peter knew that there must be another Apostle.
- He knew what should happen, he just didn’t know when it should happen.

V: 23 How did they narrow it down to these two good men.

- In some ways it seems a little like the sons of Jesse, based on the good opinion of man.

Candidate number 1: “Joseph called Barsabas, Justus.”

Joseph: May God add; he shall add; increasing,

Barsabas: Son of Saba; a son that suspends the water. Son of the host.

Justus: Upright; just; righteous.

Candidate number 2: Matthias: Greek form of Matthew; Gift of God. Gift of Jehovah.

V: 24-25 They prayed, they were seeking God’s will and committed their choices to the Lord.

- Perhaps, if they had waited until after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit would have directed them to Saul?
- **Even when we are at our best, we cannot truly know the mind of Christ, we seek towards that end but we have not attained, unless there is some specific revelation.**

Isaiah 55:8-9 **“⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”**

- We cannot comprehend God in His fullness, He is too vast and we are too limited; but He has revealed certain things to us, we can know His will to some degree in our own lives.

Romans 12:2 **“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”**

- There will always be that element of faith and trusting Him.

- I believe that God can and does speak to His children; most often through His Word. There are however those times when perhaps His Word seemingly doesn't directly address a situation and we left trying very hard to discern His will - because we want to please Him.

1 Samuel 10:6-7 “⁶And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. ⁷And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as the occasion demands / serve thee; for God is with thee.”

- Trusting that God will guide us even in our ignorance; not in our ignorance of God, but of the specific situation. If God's hand is upon us, then He can truly guide us as He will, if we are relaxed and yielded to Him.

It always comes back to some basic simple truths:

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

V: 26 Casting lots has a history dating back to the books of Leviticus and Joshua, while it seems like gambling to us, it was a method used of God to the men of that day.

Leviticus 16:7-8 “⁷And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ⁸And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat.”

Joshua 18 Joshua cast lots for the various tribes and families and what portions of land they would receive as their inheritance.

Proverbs 16:33 “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.”

- As we move into the next chapter in **Acts 2:3-4** we see that the Spirit was poured out on all of the disciples / Apostles. “Each of them” & “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”
- This was the last time they ever sought to know the will of God by casting lots. Once the Holy Spirit was given to the church, they looked instead to the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit takes over in a more direct way:

John 16:13-14 “¹³Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come. ¹⁴He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”