



BECOMING AN ACTS 2 PERSON, FAMILY, CHURCH, COMMUNITY

The Book of Acts is the continued story of Christ's ministry following on from the Gospels, but particularly the Gospel of Luke. It's title, "Acts" causes us to wonder whether Luke intended to mean, *the Acts of the Church*, or *the Acts of the Holy Spirit*. Both titles are accurate. But it is equally true that the Book of Acts describes not just *any* acts of the Holy Spirit, but particularly acts that *transformed people, families, churches and communities*. To transform communities, Christ had to establish transformed churches. To transform churches, Christ had to transform families. To transform families, Christ had to transform individuals. The opening two chapters lay the foundation for the rest of the book, but it is particularly the last few verses of Acts 2 that describe the principles for which the Holy Spirit would the Christ's transformation of the world.

CONNECTING & REFLECTING

- (i) What is one thing you can thank God for in the last week?
- (ii) Who have you shared with about what you learned in our last study?
- (iii) Which three people are you praying for to come to Christ?

A TRANSFORMED PERSON

1. How does Acts 1:8 show that the Christ intended to transform the world with His Gospel?

2. Based on Acts 1:8, how did Christ plan to transform the world and how was He going to help them to do this?

The first believers obeyed the instructions of Jesus to wait *together* and pray for the promise of Acts 1:8 to be fulfilled. They waited. They prayed. They sought God for the 'baptism with the Holy Spirit'. Have you waited, prayed, and sought God for the promised Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

What's worth noting in Acts 1 is the importance of the individual. After Judas had departed, it was necessary to appoint another *individual* to take his place (Matthias). Individuals matter to God. You matter to God. God's plan and purpose for the world rests with individuals, just like you.

3. What does Acts 1 teach us about God?

Peter, A Transformed Individual

4. Describe in your own words what happened in Acts 2:1-13 -

5. Read Acts 2:14. How does this Peter differ from the Peter we read of in the Gospels particularly toward the end of the Gospels?

6. What can we attribute this transformation in Peter to?

The Holy Spirit's transformation of the believer into the person God has destined them to be is shaped not merely by His infilling presence. Notice Peter's ability to quote from memory a passage from the Book of Joel to begin his sermon in Acts 2. Peter was not only filled with the Spirit of God - *he was filled also with the Word of God*. True spiritual and character transformation is shaped by both the leading of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

7. In what way does Acts 2:17 sum up the Spirit-filled believer's appeal to the non-believer?

The hallmark of a Spirit-filled believer's transformation is their passion for the lost to come to know Christ. The Spirit leads them to pray earnestly that souls may be saved. The Spirit leads them to eagerly bear witness to others of what Christ has done in their life.

8. How does Acts 2:38 lay the foundation for the individual's life-long transformation by the Holy Spirit?

9. Note what is required of a convert to Christ in Acts 2:38. Are these requirements necessary to also continue following Christ? If not, why not? If so, how?

10. How aware do you feel the average follower of Christ is of their need to repent as they seek to follow Christ? Explain your impression.

11. What aspects of individual transformation looked at in this study will you seek to develop with Spirit's help this coming week?

Amen.