



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE EARLY CHURCH (A BOOK STUDY OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES)

(Rom.15:4, Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5)

STUDY 20-19: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POURED OUT ON THE CHURCH -PT.2

(Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. 2:14-47)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Acts 2:14-47, Joel 2:28-32, Ps.16:8-11, 68:18, 110:1

(Act 2:14-15) Peter begins his sermon.

Peter, standing up with the eleven: Peter stood and preached to the crowd as a representative of the whole group of apostles.

Raised his voice: There was a remarkable change in Peter. He had courage and boldness that was a complete contrast to his denials of Jesus before being filled with the Holy Spirit.

This remarkable sermon had no preparation behind it. It was prepared by Peter's prior life with God and relationship with Jesus. It flowed spontaneously out of that life, and out of a mind that thought and believed deeply.

For these are not drunk: Peter deflected the mocking criticism that the disciples were drunk. In that day it was unthinkable that people would be so drunk so early in the day (about 9:00 in the morning).

Quoting Joel 2, Peter explains the strange events at Pentecost. (Act 2:16-21)

Peter introduces the focus of the sermon: The resurrected Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. (Act 2:22-24)

Quoting Psalm 16, Peter explains the resurrected Jesus. (Act 2:25-33)

Quoting Psalm 110, Peter explains the Divine Messiah. (Act 2:34-36)

The sermon concludes with a summary. Simply, all Israel should know that even though they crucified Jesus, God has declared Him both Lord and Christ.

The response to Peter's preaching. (Act 37-41)

They respond with a question: What shall we do? (Act 2:37)

Now when they heard this..."What shall we do?" This was obviously a significant work of the Holy Spirit. The great crowd listening to Peter was deeply moved by Peter's bold proclamation of the truth. They asked Peter how they should respond.

Cut to the heart: This is a good way of describing the conviction of the Holy Spirit. They now knew that they were responsible for the death of Jesus (as each of us are), and that they had to do something in response to this responsibility.

Peter invites the multitude to come to Jesus. (Act 2:38-40)

Repent: The first thing Peter told them to do is repent. To repent does not mean to feel sorry, but it means to change one's mind or direction. They had thought a certain way about Jesus before, considering Him worthy of crucifixion. Now they must turn their thinking around, embracing Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ: This was the second thing Peter said they must do. For them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ was an expression of their belief and complete trust in Him.

The promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off: As they repented and demonstrated faith and obedience by baptism, the gift of the Holy Spirit would be given to them as it was given to the original group of disciples. Peter also specifically promised that the promise of the Holy Spirit would be given to those who believe in all succeeding generations (**all who are afar off**).

The response to Peter's sermon. (Act 2: 41)

About three thousand souls were added to them: This day of Pentecost saw an amazing harvest of souls. The church went from about 120 people to 3,120 people in one day.

The foundation of the Christian life of these first believers. (Act 2:42)

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine: They relied on the apostles to communicate to them who Jesus was and what He had done. They just trusted in Jesus; now they wanted to know more.

Continued steadfastly uses a Greek verb communicating "a steadfast and single-minded fidelity to a certain course of action.

They continued in steadfastly in...fellowship: The ancient Greek word koinonia (translated here as fellowship) has the idea of association, communion, fellowship, and participation; it means to share in something.

The Christian life is meant to be full of fellowship, of sharing one with another.

They continued in steadfastly...in the breaking of bread: Even living so close to the time when Jesus was crucified, they still never wanted to forget what He did on the cross. How much more important is it for us to never forget?

They continued in steadfastly...in prayers. Whenever God's work is done, God's people gather for prayer and worship.

The presence of the power of God. (Act 2:43)

Then fear came upon every soul: This was evidence of the power of God. One of the greatest, most powerful works God can do is to change the human heart towards a reverent honor of the Lord.

Many signs and wonders were done: This was evidence of the power of God. Where God is at work, lives will be touched in miraculous ways.

Their close hearts and sharing in the common life of Jesus. (Act 2:44-45)

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common: With the influx of more than 3,000 believers, most of whom stayed in Jerusalem and didn't have jobs, the family of Christians had to share if they were to survive.

Sold their possessions and their goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need: The power of God is evident here because Jesus became much more important to them than their possessions.

The Christian family lived together and grew. (Act 2:46-47)

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house: The church is meant to worship God and learn His Word together. Yet it is meant to do more; God wants us to share our lives with one another.

Praising God and having favor with all the people: Their Christian experience was daily, joyful and simple – good examples for us to follow.

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved: This is God's prescription for church growth. If we take care to follow the example of Acts 2:42-47a, God will take care of growing the church Himself.

NEXT: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE EARLY CHURCH CONT'D (ACTS 3)