

BIBLE STUDY
REV. DR. DARRYL B. STARNES, SR., INSTRUCTOR

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Unit I: THE GOSPEL TO THE JEWS

LESSON # 1: "WAITING FOR THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 1: 1 -26

KEY VERSES: ACTS 1: 4, 5, 8

PROPOSITION: THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN WITNESS.

- I. Jesus' followers witnessed His resurrection. (1-3)
 - A. Jesus' earthly ministry is recorded in Luke's gospel. (1, 2)
 - B. Jesus' resurrection has many infallible proofs. (3)
 - C. Jesus' resurrection was witnessed by His followers. (3)
 1. He appeared to them during a forty-day period. (3)
 2. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. (3)

- II. Jesus' follower heeded His command. (4-8)
 - A. They were commanded to stay in Jerusalem. (4)
 - B. They were commanded to wait for the promise of the Father. (4)
 1. They were to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (5)
 2. They were not to be sidetracked by other issues. (6, 7)
 3. They were to receive power to effectively witness. (8)

- III. Jesus' followers witnessed His ascension> (9-11)
 - A. They saw Him taken up in a cloud out of their sight. (9)
 - B. They saw two men in white stand beside them. (10)
 - C. They heard these men promise His return in like manner. (11)

- IV. Jesus' followers obeyed His command. (12-26)
 - A. They returned to Jerusalem from Mount of Olives. (12)
 - B. They went to the upper room and waited. (13)
 1. They continued with one accord in prayer. (14)
 2. They replaced the Apostle Judas Iscariot. (15-26)
 - a. Peter addressed the 120 followers present. (15-22)
 1. Judas' actions fulfilled scripture. (16-20)
 - a. He guided those who arrested Jesus. (16)
 - b. He was numbered with the Apostles. (17)
 - c. He had a part in the Apostolic Ministry. (17)
 - d. He purchased the field with money he got. (18)
 - e. He committed suicide in a horrible death. (18)
 - f. His field is known as the Field of Blood. (19)
 - g. He was spoken of in the Book of Psalms. (20)
 2. Another must take his place as an Apostle. (20-22)
 - a. He must have been there from the beginning. (21)

- b. He must be a witness of the resurrection. (22)
- b. They proposed Joseph or Matthias. (23)
- c. They prayed for God to show them the right one. (24-25)
- d. They cast lots and the lot fell on Matthias. (26)
- d. They chose Matthias to become an Apostle. (26)

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LESSON # 2: "THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 2: 1 –47

KEY VERSES: ACTS 2: 32, 33, 36

PROPOSITION: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE DYNAMIC PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE CHURCH, WHICH GIVES IT LIFE, ENABLES IT TO GROW AND EMPOWERS IT TO SHARE THE GOSPEL EFFECTIVELY.

- I. The Phenomenal Coming of the Holy Spirit. (1-4)
 - A. The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. (1)
 1. The followers of Christ were together in the upper room.
 2. The followers of Christ were on one accord.
 - B. The Holy Spirit came sounding like a mighty rushing wind. (2)
 - C. The Holy Spirit came with what seemed as tongues of fire. (3)
 - D. The Holy Spirit came and filled everyone in the room. (4)
 1. He rested on each of them.
 2. He enabled them all to speak in other tongues. (languages)

- II. The crowd's Reaction to the Phenomenon. (5-13)
 - A. Devout Jews from everywhere were staying in Jerusalem. (5)
 - B. Because of the sound heard, a large crowd gathered. (6)
 - C. It amazed them to hear their own languages being spoken. (6-12)
 1. They recognized that those speaking were Galileans. (7)
 2. They wondered how they could speak these languages. (8-11)
 3. They heard the wonders of God in their own language. (11)
 4. They wondered what this could mean. (12)
 - D. Others mocked, saying that they were drunk with new wine. (13)

- III. The Apostle Peter's Explanation of the Phenomenon. (14-21)
 - A. Peter addressed the Jew and those staying in Jerusalem. (14)
 - B. He arose to explain the meaning of this phenomenon. (14)
 - C. He assured them that it was not drunkenness. (15)
 - D. He said that it was the fulfillment of Joel's prophesy. (16-21)

[Joel 2: 28-32]

 1. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days. (17)
 2. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all people. (17, 18)
 3. The Holy Spirit empowering all flesh for ministry. (17, 18)
 - a. People of both genders (sons & daughters).
 - b. People of all ages (young & old).

- c. People of all classes (Menservants & maidservants).
 - 4. The Holy Spirit enabling salvation for people. (21)
- IV. The Apostle Peter's Preaching about the Lord, Jesus Christ. (22-36)
 - A. Peter addressed the men of Israel. (22)
 - B. Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested by God. (22)
 - 1. He was attested to them by miracles, wonders & signs.
 - 2. These signs were done by God through Him in their midst.
 - C. Jesus was delivered by God's set purpose & foreknowledge. (23)
 - D. Jesus was crucified by them with the help of wicked men. (23)
 - E. Jesus was resurrected by God & loosed from death's agony. (24)
 - F. Jesus' resurrection was prophesied by David. (25-31) [Psalm 16: 8-11)
 - 1. God's presence inspires hope when facing death. (25-26)
 - 2. God's presence inspires hope of a resurrection. (27)
 - 3. God's presence inspires hope of life and joy. (28)
 - 4. David's prophesy was not concerning himself. (29)
 - 5. David knew that God would raise Christ to his throne. (30)
 - 6. David was speaking about the resurrection of Christ. (31)
 - G. Jesus was raised by God and they are all witnesses. (32)
 - H. Jesus was exalted to the right hand of God. (33)
 - I. Jesus received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit. (33)
 - J. Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit that they now see & hear. (33)
 - K. Jesus' ascension & exaltation were prophesied by David. (34, 35) [Psalm 110: 1]
 - 1. David never ascended into the heavens.
 - 2. David prophesied Christ's exaltation & victory.
 - L. Jesus, whom they crucified, is both Lord & Christ. (36)
- V. The people's Responses to the Gospel (37-41)
 - A. Convicted by the message, the people sought instructions. (37)
 - B. Peter instructed & exhorted them about salvation. (38-40)
 - 1. "Repent and be baptized" (38)
 - a. "in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of sins".
 - b. "and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".
 - 2. "The promise is for you and your children". (39)
 - a. "and to all who are afar off"
 - b. "as many as the Lord our God will call".
 - 3. "Be saved from this perverse generation".
 - C. 3000 were baptized and added to the Church that day. (41)
- VI. The Evidences of Holy Spirit's Presence in the Church. (42-47)
 - A. Devout attendance to the appointed "Means of Grace". (42)
 - 1. The Ministry of the Word.
 - 2. The fellowship of the Saints.
 - 3. The Communion Service and / or fellowship Meals.
 - 4. The Prayer Meetings.

- B. Respect for leaders as agents of God's supernatural power. (43)
- C. Unity among the believers. (44-46)
 - 1. Sharing resources. (44, 45)
 - 2. Caring for the needs of all. (45)
 - 3. Worshipping together in the temple. (46)
 - 4. Eating together in their homes. (46)
 - 5. Sincerely enjoying each other's fellowship. (46)
- D. Passionate Praise. (47)
- E. Favor with the people of the community. (47)
- F. Spiritual and numerical growth. (47)

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LESSON # 3: IN THE NAME OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 3: 1 –26
KEY VERSES: ACTS 3: 16

PROPOSITION: THAT WHICH IS DONE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST POSITIVELY AND PERMANENTLY CHANGES THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AND GLORIFIES THE NAME OF GOD.

- I. Ministry in the name of Jesus results in supernatural power and passionate praise. (1-10)
 - A. Peter & John encountered a person in need of a miracle. (1-3)
 1. They were on their way to the 3:00 pm Prayer Meeting. (1)
 2. A beggar who was lame from birth asked them for money. (2-3)
 - B. Peter ministered to him in the name of Jesus Christ. (4-7)
 4. He instructed the man to look at them and he did. (4, 5)
 5. He confessed to the man that he had no money. (6)
 6. He gave the man what he did have. (6, 7)
 - a. He commanded him to walk in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - b. He took him by the right hand and lifted him up.
 - c. He saw the man's feet and ankle bones receive strength.
 - C. The beggar stood up and began leaping, walking and praising God. (8)
 - D. The people who saw him were filled with wonder & amazement. (9, 10)
- II. Faith in the name of Jesus results in physical healing and perfect health. (11-16)
 - A. Peter saw the people's amazement concerning the miracle. (11, 12)
 - B. Peter assures them that this miracle was not the result of their own power. (12)
 - C. Peter informs them that the man was healed by faith in the name of Jesus. (13-16)
 1. God glorified His Servant, Jesus Christ. (13)
 2. You rejected Him. (13-15)
 - A. You delivered Him up.
 - B. You denied Him before Pilate who wanted to let Him go.
 - C. You denied the Holy One and the Just for a murderer.
 - D. You killed the Prince of Life.
 3. God raised Him from the dead. (15)
 4. We are His witnesses. (15)

5. Healing and health come from faith in His name. (16)
- II. Repentance in the name of Jesus results in spiritual renewal and authentic revival. (17-26)
- A. Christ's suffering and passion were the fulfillment of prophecy. (17-18)
 1. The people and the rulers acted in ignorance. (17)
 2. God fulfilled Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah's suffering. (18)
 - B. Repentance in the name of Jesus is the only way to renewal and revival. (19,20)
 1. Genuine repentance must precede forgiveness of sins. (19)
 2. Genuine conversion must precede spiritual renewal. (19)
 3. Genuine repentance must precede true revival from God. (19)
 4. Genuine repentance must prepare us for Christ's second coming. (20)
 - C. The prophets of old spoke of the Christ to Whom all must turn. (21-24)
 1. Christ must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration. (21)
 2. God announced Christ coming by the holy prophets. (21)
 3. God announced His coming through the prophecies of Moses. (22-23)
 - A. God will raise up a Prophet like me, that all must listen to.
 - B. Whoever does not listen to Him will be destroyed.
 4. God announced His coming through all the prophets. (24)
 - D. God sent Jesus first to the children of the covenant. (25-26)
 1. Through them all the families of the earth were to be blessed. (25)
 2. He gave them the first opportunity to repent of their sins. (26)

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LESSON # 4: “ROCLAMING SALVATION IN THE NAME OF JESUS”

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 4: 1–31

KEY VERSES: ACTS 4: 12

PROPOSITION: GOD’S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO PROCLAIM SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST IN SPITE OF PERSECUTION, FOR THERE IS NO OTHER NAME GIVEN AMONG MEN BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED.

- I. Peter and John are arrested for preaching Jesus. (1-4)
 - A. The Jewish leaders hear Peter & John teaching & preaching. (1)
 - B. The Jewish leaders are disturbed by their message. (2)
 - C. The Jewish leaders have them arrested and put in custody. (3)
 - D. Many people who heard the word believed [5,000 men] (4)

- III. Peter and John are questioned by the Sanhedrin Court. (5-12)
 - A. The Jewish leaders question them about their authority. (5-7)
 - B. Peter answers that the name of Jesus is their authority. (8-12)
 - 1. He speaks being filled with the spirit. (8)
 - 2. He respectfully addresses the Jewish leaders.
 - 3. He explains that the lame man was healed by the authority that is in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. (9-10)
 - a. The Jesus, whom they crucified.
 - b. The Jesus, whom God raised from the dead.
 - 4. He adds that Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone. (11)
 - 5. He affirms that there is salvation in no other name. (12)

- IV. Peter and John are forbidden to teach in the name of Jesus. (13-22)
 - A. The Jewish leaders marvel at their boldness as untrained men and recognize that they had been with Jesus. (13)
 - B. The Jewish leaders see the healed man with them and can say nothing against it. (14)
 - C. The Jewish leaders send them out so they can confer. (15)
 - D. The Jewish leaders unable to deny the miracle, try to keep it from spreading by forbidding them to speak in His name. (16-18)
 - E. Peter and John promise only to obey God rather than man and to proclaim what they have witnessed. (19, 20)
 - F. The Jewish leaders threatened them and released them. (21, 22)
 - 1. They found no way to punish them.
 - 2. The people glorified God for the miracle.
 - 3. The man who was healed was forty years old.

- V. God gives His people greater boldness in speaking His word. (23-31)
 - A. Peter and John reported everything to their companions. (23)
 - B. They all began to praise God for His power and purpose. (24-28)
 - C. They began to pray to God for boldness and power. (29-30)
 - D. God filled them with His spirit and gave them boldness. (31)

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LESSON # 5: "THE GRACE OF GOD IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 4: 32-5: 16

KEY VERSES: ACTS 4: 32, 33

PROPOSITION: THE GRACE OF GOD WAS DEMONSTRATED WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THROUGH THE UNITY OF ITS MEMBERS AND THE POWERFUL WITNESS OF ITS LEADERS.

- I. The unity of the Believers. (4: 32-37)
 - A. The believers were of one heart and one soul. (32)
 - B. The believers shared their possessions. (32-35)
 1. They did not consider possessions to be their own. (32)
 2. They had all things in common. (32)
 3. There was no one among them who lacked (34-35)
 - a. They surrendered their possessions to the church.
 - b. The church distributed to each as anyone had need.
 - C. Barnabas sold his property and surrendered the proceeds. (36, 37)

- II. The powerful witness of the Apostles. (5: 1-16)
 - A. The Apostles dealt powerfully with greed and dishonesty. (1-11)
 - a. Ananias and Sapphira sold a possession, kept back part of the proceeds and brought the rest to the Apostle. (1, 2)
 - b. Peter confronted Ananias. (3, 4)
 - a. Satan had filled his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back the proceeds for himself.
 - b. It was his to give or not to give before and after it was sold.
 - c. His sin is that of deception.
 - d. He was not lying to men, but to God.
 - c. Ananias fell dead after hearing the word of Peter. (5)
 - d. Ananias was taken away and buried. (6)
 - e. Three hours later, his wife came, not knowing what happened to her husband. (7)
 - f. Peter questioned her and she lied as her husband did. (8)
 - g. Peter confronted her and she fell dead also. (9, 10)
 - h. She was also taken away and buried by her husband. (10)
 - i. Great fear came upon the church and community. (5, 11)

 - A. The Apostles ministered with great power and results. (12-16)
 1. Many signs and wonders were done by the Apostles. (12)
 1. People had great reverence for the Apostles. (13)
 2. The Church experienced great growth. (14)
 3. Sick were healed by just the shadow of the Apostle. (15)
 4. Multitudes of sick and possessed were healed. (16)

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LESSON # 6: "SUFFERING FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 5: 17-42

KEY VERSES: ACTS 5: 40-42

PROPOSITION: ALTHOUGH THEY MUST ENDURE SUFFERING, GOD HAS MANY WAYS TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM PERSECUTION, THAT THEY MAY FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

- I. God delivered the Apostles by miraculous means. (17-23)
 - A. The Jewish leaders' became angry over the power, popularity and teaching of the Apostles. (17)
 - B. The Apostles were arrested and put into prison. (18)
 - C. The Angel of the Lord freed the Apostles. (19)
 - D. The Angel commanded them to go in the temple and teach. (20)
 - E. The Apostles went in the temple the next morning and taught. (21)
 - F. The Jewish leaders discover that the Apostles are gone. (21-23)

- II. The Apostles remained faithful under trial. (24-32)
 - A. The Jewish leaders pondered the outcome of these events. (24)
 - B. The Jewish leaders received word that the Apostles were teaching in the temple. (25)
 - C. The Apostles were arrested without violence because of their popularity and set before the Sanhedrin Council. (26, 27)
 - D. The high priest questioned the Apostle. (27, 28)
 1. About violating the command not to teach in Jesus' name.
 2. About filling Jerusalem with their doctrine.
 3. About intending to bring Jesus' blood on them.
 - E. Peter and the Apostles answered the high priest. (29-32)
 1. "We ought to obey God rather than men."
 2. You did murder Jesus by hanging Him on a tree.
 3. But the God of our fathers:
 - a. Raised Him up from the dead.
 - b. Exalted Him to His right hand.
 - 1) To be Prince and Savior.
 - 2) To give repentance to Israel.
 - 3) To give forgiveness of sins.
 4. We are His witnesses to these things.
 5. Holy Spirit is also His witness.
 6. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.

- III. God delivered the Apostles by the counsel of a wise man. (33-40)
 - A. Angered by the Apostles' responses, the Jewish leaders plotted to kill them. (33)
 - B. Gamaliel stood and commanded them to remove the Apostles. (34)
 - C. He warned them to be careful how they handled these men. (35)
 - D. He reminded them that other rebels had come to nought. (36, 37)
 - 1. Theudas, who led 400 men was slain and his movement ended.
 - 2. Judas of Galilee also perish and his followers dispersed.
 - E. He commanded them to leave the Apostles alone. (38, 39)
 - 1. If this work of men, it will come to nought.
 - 2. If it is of God, you can't overthrow it- lest you even be found to fight against God.
 - F. The Sanhedrin Court agreed with him. (40)
 - 1. They called for the Apostles.
 - 2. They beat them.
 - 3. They commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus.
 - 4. They let them go.
- IV. Upon leaving the Sanhedrin Council the Apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. (41)
- V. The Apostles continued to faithfully teach and preach Jesus daily in the temple and in every house. (42)

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LESSON # 7: THE IMPORTANCE OF LAY LEADERSHIP

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 6: 1-15

KEY VERSES: ACTS 6: 3, 4

PROPOSITION: VERY EARLY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH, BOTH MINISTERS AND MEMBERS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF LAY LEADERSHIP TO THE SUCCESS OF A GROWING CHURCH.

- I. The Origin of Lay Leadership in the Church. (1-7)
 - A. The Church experienced its first major problem. (1)
 1. The Church experienced accelerated growth.
 2. The Church heard complaints by the Greek-speaking Jews.
 3. The Church neglected their widows in daily distribution.
 - B. The Apostles called a member's meeting. (2)
 - C. The Apostles shared their solution to the problem. (2-4)
 1. We shouldn't leave the word of God to serve tables. (2)
 2. We should seek qualified laity to assume these tasks. (3)
 - a. Persons of good reputation.
 - b. Persons full of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Persons full of wisdom.
 3. We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (4)
 - D. The Church accepted their solution and implemented it. (5, 6)
 1. They choose seven laymen who met the qualifications. (5)
 2. They set them before the Apostle. (6)
 3. The Apostles prayed over them. (6)
 4. The Apostles ordained them by laying on of hands. (6)
 - E. The Lay Leadership positively impacted the Church. (7)
 1. The word of God spread.
 2. The number of the disciples multiplied greatly.
 4. A great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- II. Stephen: The Church's First Prominent Lay Leader. (8-15)
 - A. Stephen's character and ministry. (8-10)
 - 1. A man full of faith [God's grace was upon him]. (8)
 - 2. A man full of power [He did great wonders and signs]. (8)
 - 3. A man full of wisdom [His opposition was no match]. (10)
 - 4. A man full of the Holy Spirit [God gave him words]. (10)
 - B. Stephen's opposition. (11-15)
 - 1. His opposition bribed men to accuse him of blasphemy. (11)
 - 2. His opposition instigated his arrest and had him brought before the Sanhedrin Council. (12)
 - 3. His opposition brought in false witnesses who charged him with blasphemy against the temple and the law.(13, 14)
 - 4. His opposition saw that his face was like that of an angel. (15)