

Power for a Purpose

A Brief Study of Acts Chapter Two

I. The key to understanding the events in Acts is found in Acts 1:8

1. *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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

- a. The word for “power” in the above passage is *dunamis*. It means, “strength power, ability; power for performing miracles.” It is the same word from which we get our English word “dynamite.”

2. What is the purpose of this power? _____

II. The fulfillment of the promise above is found in Acts 2:1-4

1. Notice the phrase, “...all with one accord in one place.” Why do you think that Christian unity is so important to God? _____

2. What happens among God’s people that disturb Christian unity? _____

3. Notice the passage in Acts chapter four:

- a. How many of them were filled with the Spirit? _____
- b. How many of them spoke with other tongues? _____
- c. Who did the speaking in *other tongues* – the Spirit or the People? _____
- d. Who gave the utterance to speak in *other tongues*? _____
- e. Do you believe that the promise and experiences in Acts 1:8 and 2:1-4 can be experienced by believers today? Why or why not? _____

4. Notice Acts 2:11. What did the experience of other tongues lead to? _____

- a. Are tongues of the devil? Why or why not? _____
- b. Notice Acts 2:12-13. People often mock Pentecostal and Charismatic experiences, including other Christians. Why do you believe that this is so? _____
- c. Should we be afraid to receive an experience from God simply because of fear of being ridiculed? _____

III. Receiving the Promise of the Spirit:

1. Acts 2:16-18. Notice that the experience of the disciples was based on the fulfillment of God's Word. No experience should be accepted apart from a foundation in God's Word and no experience should be rejected if it has its foundations in God's Word.

- a. How do we receive faith to appropriate anything from God (hint: Rom. 10:17):

2. Read Acts 2:33 and 38-39. Notice two statements that Peter makes concerning the precious Holy Spirit:

- a. He is a promise.
b. He is a gift.

3. As we explore the terminology above we must ask ourselves:

- a. Does God ever lie? If not, are His promises reliable? _____
b. What do you do to earn a gift? _____
c. Read verse 39? Who is this gift and promise for? _____
d. How does our perspective on the above strengthen or hinder our faith in receiving the same experiences mentioned in Acts 2:1-4? _____

4. After studying this lesson, how do you feel that God would have you apply this to your own life?
