

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 10, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith **Topic:** The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit

Main Texts: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-47

Key verse: Acts of the Apostles 1:8 – *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The key verse, Acts 1:8, is the promise Jesus made to His disciples as he ascended into heaven. It was the fulfillment of God’s promise that He would “pour out of My Spirit on all flesh”. It marked a transition from the Old Covenant (Moses) to the New Covenant (Christ). We saw in our last study that God reconciled all men to Himself, and to each other (Jew to Gentile) by sending His Son, who with His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection became the perfect sinless sacrifice through whom we become righteous and obtain eternal life (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21). Only Jesus can save. His coming is the catalyst to spread the good news. As the disciples waited, in obedience to His command (Acts 1:4), the Holy Spirit came upon them with sound, wind, and tongues as of fire. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in different languages; their timidity is gone; the Holy Spirit gives them boldness to be witnesses to Christ and spread the gospel “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”. all over the earth. We can do nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. (a) What does the sound of wind, tongues of fire and different languages communicate about who the Spirit is and what He does? (b) What does the need to speak in other languages imply about God’s mission?

Jerusalem is filled with visitors for Pentecost, who watch the language conundrum of the Galileans; some astounded and amazed, and others with a mocking and dismissive attitude. A new, improved, Spirit-filled Peter, imbued with passion, power and purpose preaches the first sermon, quoting from Joel 2: 28-32. It is the “last days.” He declares that Jesus, whom they were complicit in His death, is the risen Messiah the Jews had been waiting for. His passionate sermon reaches the recesses of the hearts of the people who in fright ask, “what shall we do?” to which Peter says they must repent and be baptized to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Some heeded him, repented and were baptized and from 120, the church grew to over 3000. When the Holy Spirit is at work we are captivated by Jesus as hearts change and desires are redirected.

2. (a) What parallels do you find from both responses with contemporary reactions to the Christian message in our time? (b) Does God still transform lives today as He did Peter’s life? (c) What were the main important traits of Peter’s sermon?

Many of the new believers had no idea about Jesus save for Peter’s sermon. The infant church provided a caring, loving, living, and growing Christian community with unity as the foundation characterized by generosity, genuine worship, and faithfulness. They practice the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, share communion, and pray together. They shared meals and pooled resources in a way that was unprecedented in Jerusalem. And the Lord added new converts daily. Unity is foundational to the Christian faith (Eph 4:3-4, 13).

3. (a). Why is community so important to the practice of Christianity; how does it compare to the individualism and consumerism prevalent today? (b). What can we learn from the first Christians; how can we use their example in our time?

Prayer: Father, in this walk of the Christian faith, help us to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit as we forge unity within the Church in Jesus Name, Amen.