**Transition from Jesus' Ministry to Spirit-filled Believers and The Church**

Acts Chapters 1 & 2—Week One—9/9/25

Acts 1 – Preparing for the Spirit

1. **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**
	* ***Acts 1:4-5***– Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
	* ***John 16:7*** – *"It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."*

🔑 **Key Truths:**

* The Holy Spirit provides a better way to Live.
* Waiting is part of God’s Plan.
1. **The Mission of the Church**
* ***Acts 1:8 & 14*** – *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses… to the ends of the earth."*
* After the Ascension, the disciples prayed together and relied on Scripture, preparing to replace Judas with Matthias.

🔑 **Key Truths:**

**•** God’s work is done in God’s power, not ours.

* The Church exists to witness to Christ everywhere.
* Prayer prepares our hearts and minds to act as we listen for God’s leading.

Acts 2 – The Spirit Empowers Us and the Church

1. **Pentecost – The Spirit Poured Out**
* *Acts 2:1-12* — When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, they spoke in other languages so that people from many nations could hear the wonders of God in their own tongues.

🔑 **Key Truth:** God’s Spirit now writes His law on human hearts (New Covenant)—not on stone tablets—empowering mission and beginning the worldwide Church.

* **God’s Perfect Timing:** Jews from every nation under Heaven (Acts 2:5) journeyed to Jerusalem because it was Pentecost and heard the Gospel in their own language.
* **Pentecost in the Old and New Testaments:**
	+ OT Pentecost (50 days after Passover): Feast of Weeks, a harvest festival that celebrates the first fruits of the harvest.
	+ NT Pentecost (50 days after the resurrection): the first great harvest of souls (3,000 saved).
* **Symbols of Pentecost:**
	+ **Fire** — God’s presence and purifying power.
		- At Sinai: fire = God’s truth written externally (law on stone).
		- At Pentecost: fire = God’s truth written internally (Spirit in hearts).
	+ **Wind** — God’s life-giving Spirit (Ezekiel, Elijah, Jesus).
	+ **Tongues**  —God’s wonders were declared, reinforcing it was the voice of God.

**2. Peter’s Sermon**

* *Acts 2:14–36* — Peter proclaims that Jesus is the promised Messiah and risen Lord.

**3. The Call to Repentance**

* *Acts 2:37–39* — “Repent and be baptized… and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

**4. The Birth of the Early Church Community**

* *Acts 2:42–47* — Believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer; they shared generously, and God added to their number daily.

🔑 **Key Truth:** A Spirit-filled church is marked by prayer, worship, fellowship, generosity, and growth.

The Holy Spirit: Personal and Experiential

The Holy Spirit is not only a doctrine to believe but a person to know and experience. He is the third person of the Trinity—yet for many, He is a “familiar stranger.” Today, Charity and I will share our personal experiences of the Spirit and how He speaks to us.

**Discussion Questions**

**Discover**

1. After reading Acts 1–2, what stood out to you in a fresh way?

**Explore**
2. Why do you think Jesus insisted the disciples wait for the Holy Spirit before beginning their mission?

**Experience**

3. What, if anything, holds you back from wanting more of the Holy Spirit—fear, resistance, or something else?

4. How do you recognize the Holy Spirit in your own life? Can you share a personal experience of His presence or guidance?

**Share**
5. How might sharing your experiences of the Spirit help others? How have other people’s stories helped you?