

Acts opens with Jesus' final days on earth as He prepares His followers, not for comfort, but for mission. He commands them to wait for the promised Holy Spirit, explaining that God's power—not human strength—will enable them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. After this charge, Jesus ascends into heaven, reminding the disciples that His departure is not abandonment but a transition. The same Jesus who ascended will return, and between those two moments, the church is given its mission: to make Him known. In obedience and expectation, the disciples pray together and replace Judas, showing that God's work moves forward even after betrayal and loss.

In Acts 2, the promise becomes reality as the Holy Spirit fills the believers at Pentecost. The sound of rushing wind, tongues of fire, and speaking in other languages mark the arrival of divine power. Peter, once fearful, now boldly proclaims the gospel, explaining that Jesus—crucified and risen—is both Lord and Messiah. The message pierces hearts, leading three thousand people to repent and be baptized. This moment marks the birth of the church. The believers form a new community devoted to teaching, prayer, fellowship, worship, and generosity. God's power doesn't just save individuals—it creates a people.

Acts 3 shows what life looks like when the Spirit leads. Peter heals a man who had been crippled from birth, demonstrating that the risen Jesus is still active and powerful. Peter again points away from himself and toward Christ, calling the crowd to repentance and faith. The miracle becomes a platform for the message: Jesus is alive, and He restores more than bodies—He restores souls. The early church moves from waiting to witnessing, from fear to boldness, from followers to leaders. God's power changes everything.

Reflection Questions

1. Where in your life might Jesus be asking you to *wait* on the Holy Spirit instead of rushing ahead in your own strength?
2. What fears, doubts, or past failures still shape how boldly you live out your faith—and how does Peter's transformation challenge those limits?
3. How do you typically respond to seasons of loss, betrayal, or disappointment (like Judas' failure)? What does Acts 1 teach you about God's ability to move His mission forward anyway?
4. If someone looked at your life, what evidence would they see that God's power—not human effort—is at work in you?

5. The early believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, prayer, generosity, and worship. Which of these rhythms is most absent from your life right now, and why?
6. In what ways have you experienced God changing not just *you*, but your relationships and community through faith?
7. Peter pointed away from himself and toward Jesus after the miracle. Where might you be tempted to take credit instead of directing glory to Christ?
8. What areas of your life need the kind of restoration that goes deeper than physical healing—restoration of the heart, mind, or purpose?
9. How is God inviting you to move from being a *spectator* of faith to an *active witness* this season?
10. If you truly believed that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, what would you do differently this week?