Lesson #2 Acts.docx >



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Lesson #2: Equipped and empowered to Live and Serve

Acts chapter 2 – chapter 7

Jesus ministered and taught His disciples for 40 days and on His day of ascension He instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1: 3-8) and so they waited gathered and prayed. The birth of the church began in Acts 2:4, sign and wonders happened as the Holy Spirit made a delineation between those who believed and those who didn't. Peter's message and call to repentance was delivered with clarity and boldness and three thousand souls were added to the church in that one day. The empowering of the Holy Spirit brought a whole new culture to the church,

- 1. In Acts 2: 41-47 what are some of the notable things we see happening among the disciples?
- 2. How do you think their behavior and culture impacted the people around them?

Among these empowered disciples, we witness a remarkable transformation—a community marked by unity, generosity, and unwavering devotion. They shared their possessions so that none among them was in need, breaking bread together with gladness and sincerity of heart. Miraculous signs and healings became commonplace, drawing awe from all who observed their fellowship. Their prayers grew bolder, their witness more courageous, and their love for one another more visible. The fear that once gripped them was replaced by a spirit of power and purpose, fueling their resolve to proclaim the good news far beyond Jerusalem. Each day, their numbers increased as people were drawn to this radiant new way of life, testifying to the compelling work of the Spirit among them.

- Peter and John heal a lame man at the temple gate, drawing public attention and inspiring faith (Acts 3).
- The apostles preach boldly about Jesus, even when arrested and threatened by religious authorities.
- Believers share possessions and resources, ensuring no one among them is in need.
- Ananias and Sapphira are judged for lying to the Holy Spirit, teaching the church reverence and honesty (Acts 5).
- The apostles are freed from prison by an angel and continue proclaiming the gospel.
- Seven faithful individuals (including Stephen) are appointed to help with daily needs and keep focus on teaching and prayer (Acts 6).



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- The apostles are freed from prison by an angel and continue proclaiming the gospel.
- Seven faithful individuals (including Stephen) are appointed to help with daily needs and keep focus on teaching and prayer (Acts 6).
- Stephen performs wonders, defends the faith, and becomes the church's first martyr, leading to increased persecution and scattering of believers (Acts 7).
- Philip brings the gospel and joy to Samaria and baptizes an Ethiopian official (Acts 8).
- Saul (later Paul) encounters Jesus on the road to Damascus, is converted, and begins preaching Christ (Acts 9).

Considering the points outlined above, how can we thoughtfully assess the significance of Jesus instructing the Apostles to wait for the Father's promise?

