

the story

Pastor
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GOD'S STORY IS OUR STORY

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“ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

~ JOHN 12:24 (NIV)

NEW BEGINNINGS - *The Birth of the Church in the Book of Acts*

“ In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus **began to do** and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven,” ~ ACTS 1:1-2a (NIV)

The Question of Acts is Always: _____ ?

“ Then they gathered around him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’⁷ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.”

~ ACTS 1:6-9 (NIV)

1. The Power of the Church: _____ .

“ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;” ~ ACTS 1:8a (NIV)

Jesus’ teaching about the Holy Spirit (*Another Like Me*)

Helper, Advocate, Comforter, Counselor, Spirit of Truth (*John 14-16*)

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit empowers people for _____ .

“ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.” ~ PSALM 51:11 (NIV)

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit _____ Jesus’ Followers.

“ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,” ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19a (NIV)

Spirit: Hebrew; *Ruach*, Greek; *Pneuma*: _____ .

Compare 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 and Acts 2:2-3

“ If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today 95% of what we do would go on and no-one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had withdrawn from the New Testament Church 95% of what they did would stop and everyone would know the difference.”

| A.W. TOZER

2. The Mission of the Church: _____ .

“ You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ~ ACTS 1:8b (NIV)

Witnesses: One who gives Testimony in both _____ .

PASTOR HAYTHEM MAZAHREH, *Aman Jordan*

3. The Model of the Church: _____ .

“ They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

~ ACTS 2:42-47 (NIV)

What the Church is Not...

• _____

“ They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

~ ACTS 2:42 (NIV)

• _____

“ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

~ ACTS 2:44-45 (NIV)

• _____

“ Enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

~ ACTS 2:47b (NIV)

• _____

“ Every day they continued to meet together.” ~ ACTS 2:46a (NIV)

• _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |       Google TV

- 1 - What is your favorite thing about church? If you could change one thing about church what would it be?
- 2 - Jesus clearly says in Acts 1:8 that the Holy Spirit must be the power of the church. Read the quote from AW Tozer in your notes. What do you think he meant? Do you agree or disagree? How can we depend more on God's Spirit than our own strength? Share an experience where forgiveness brought peace or healing.
- 3 - Acts 1:8 calls us to be witnesses in “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.” What do those places look like for you personally?

- 4 - The early church devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Which of those comes easiest for you—and which is hardest?
- 5 - Which of the modern “church models” (movie theatre, store, restaurant, gas station, health club) do you relate to most? How could we move toward being a true family on mission?
- 6 - The early church changed the world with little more than faith and the Holy Spirit. What would it take for that kind of movement to happen again today?

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