

ACTS

the church that GOD built

**Reading Plan
&
Devotional**

ACTS

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Week 1
September 1-6

September 1

Power from On High

Reading:

- Acts 1:6-8

Cross-Reference:

- Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission)
- Acts 1:3 (Jesus speaking to them about the kingdom)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

-Acts 1:8

Devotional Thought:

In Acts 1:8, Jesus promises the disciples the power of the Holy Spirit. This power isn't for personal gain; it's to equip them as witnesses for Him. Reflecting on this, we're reminded that our strength is limited, but with the Holy Spirit, we can accomplish God's purpose and be instrumental in extending His grace and truth to others.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.How have I seen the Holy Spirit at work in my life or the lives of others?

2.What specific area of my life do I need to invite the Holy Spirit's power?

3.In what ways can I be a witness for Christ in my community today?

September 2

Unity in Diversity

Reading:

- Acts 1:9-11

Cross-Reference:

- Luke 24:51-53 (The Ascension)
- John 14:2-3 (Jesus preparing a place for us)

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.”

-Acts 2:1

Devotional Thought:

Acts 2 begins with the unity of believers. The coming of the Holy Spirit was marked by a powerful moment rooted in collective prayer and purpose. This teaches us the importance of being united as the body of Christ, valuing differences while working toward proclaiming the Gospel together.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.How can I contribute to fostering unity within my church or community?

2.Are there any biases or barriers I need to address that hinder my relationships with others?

3.What mission can we pursue together in Christ’s name to reflect our unity?

September 3

The Gift of the Spirit

Reading:

- Acts 2:1-4

Cross-Reference:

- Joel 2:28-29 (Prophecy of the Spirit's outpouring)
- John 14:16-17 (The promise of the Holy Spirit)

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

-Acts 2:4

Devotional Thought:

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowers the disciples to communicate God's message in various languages, showing that the Gospel transcends barriers. This moment illustrates how God equips His people with unique gifts to build His Church and reach those in need of His love.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.What spiritual gifts has God given me, and how can I use them for His glory?

2.Have I ever felt inspired to share my faith in unique ways or languages?

3.How can I embrace diversity in my expressions of faith and service?

September 4

The Call to Repentance and Baptism

Reading:

- Acts 2:5-13

Cross-Reference:

- Genesis 11:1-9 (The Tower of Babel)
- Revelation 7:9 (Worship from every tribe and nation)

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

-Acts 2:38

Devotional Thought:

Peter’s message emphasizes the importance of repentance and baptism in experiencing God’s grace. Baptism is a powerful public declaration of faith, marking the moment when we receive cleansing from sin and the new life we receive in Christ. This moment signifies the beginning of a transformed relationship with the Lord, where repentance opens our hearts to His mercy and grace.

Questions (write your answers below):

- 1.Is there anything in my life that I need to repent of to strengthen my relationship with God?
- 2.How do I view baptism, and what steps can I take to understand its significance better?
- 3.What steps can I take to share my own baptism experience with others to inspire them?

September 5

The Response to the Gospel

Reading:

- Acts 2:14-41

Cross-Reference:

- Psalm 16:8-11 (Peter's use of Old Testament prophecy)
- Romans 10:9-13 (Confessing faith for salvation)

"So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."
-Acts 2:41

Devotional Thought:

The Day of Pentecost marked the birth of the Church and revealed a powerful response to the Gospel. Three thousand souls came to faith through the faithful preaching of Peter and the work of the Holy Spirit. As believers, we're called to not only respond to the Gospel ourselves but also to share it with others, inviting them into this transformative journey.

Questions (write your answers below):

1. Who in my life needs to hear the message of the Gospel, and how can I approach them about it?

2. In what ways can I actively participate in sharing my faith with others?

3. How can I celebrate and support my church community's growth in faith?

September 6

Reading and Reflection

Reading:

- Acts 2:42-47

Cross-Reference:

- Hebrews 10:24-25 (Encouraging one another in fellowship)
- Matthew 18:20 (Where two or three gather in His name)

Reflection:

How did the early Church live out their faith in daily life?

What practices can you adopt from their example?

Take some intentional time to pray about what you've read this week and how this can apply to what you do daily. Ask for the Holy Spirit to continue to speak to you as you read through the scriptures and devotions.

September 7
Sermon Notes

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Week 2
September 8-13

September 8

Devoted to Fellowship

Reading:

- Acts 2:42

Cross-Reference:

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (The importance of Scripture)
- Romans 12:10 (Devotion to one another in love)

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

-Acts 2:42

Devotional Thought:

The early Church exemplified a commitment to learning and community. Their devotion to teaching and fellowship highlights the importance of growing in faith together. In our own lives, nurturing relationships with other believers can deepen our understanding of Christ and help us stay accountable in our spiritual journeys.

Questions (write your answers below):

1. Who in my life can I reach out to for deeper fellowship and accountability?
2. How can I make time in my week to devote to learning more about God’s Word with others?
3. In what ways can I encourage and support fellow believers in their faith journey?

September 9

Breaking Bread Together

Reading:

- Acts 2:43

Cross-Reference:

- Hebrews 13:8 (Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever)
- John 14:12 (Greater works will we do)

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
-Acts 2:43

Devotional Thought:

The practice of breaking bread symbolizes nourishment, both physical and spiritual. Sharing meals can foster community and serve as a reminder of Christ’s sacrifice at communion. When we gather around the table, we express love and unity, building deeper connections that reflect the heart of Jesus.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.How can I incorporate shared meals or gatherings into my routine as a way to connect with others?

2.Are there any relationships in my life that could benefit from more intentional time spent together?

3.When have I felt a strong sense of community around a meal, and how can I recreate that experience?

September 10

Committed to Prayer

Reading:

- Acts 2:44-45

Cross-Reference:

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (The generosity of the Macedonians)
- Philippians 2:3-4 (Considering others' needs)

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

-Acts 2:42

Devotional Thought:

Prayer was a foundational aspect of the early Church's life. It reminds us that our relationship with God is sustained through communication. Devoting ourselves to prayer not only strengthens our connection with Him but also fosters unity in our community, as we intercede for each other and seek His guidance together.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.How can I make prayer a more intentional part of my daily routine?

2.Who in my life could use my prayers right now, and how can I reach out to them?

3.What specific requests do I need to bring before God, and how can I expect Him to respond?

September 11

Awe and Wonder

Reading:

- Acts 2:46

Cross-Reference:

- Romans 15:7 (Accept one another just as Christ accepted you)
- Hebrews 10:24-25 (Encouraging one another)

“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

-Acts 2:43

Devotional Thought:

The early Church experienced a sense of awe as they witnessed the miraculous works through the apostles. This sense of wonder is a reminder of God’s active presence in our lives. Recognizing the miracles around us, no matter how small, can cultivate gratitude and a deeper faith as we see God working in our midst.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.What moments of awe have I experienced in my own faith journey recently?

2.How can I be more attentive to the ways God is working in my life and in my community?

3.In what ways can I share the stories of God’s miracles or provision with others to inspire their faith?

September 12

Living Generously

Reading:

- Acts 2:47

Cross-Reference:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (Rejoicing always, praying continually)
- Psalm 100:4 (Enter His gates with thanksgiving)

“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

-Acts 2:45

Devotional Thought:

Generosity was a hallmark of the early Church. Their willingness to share their resources revealed a profound understanding of community and love. Living generously reflects the heart of Christ, inviting us to consider how we can serve and support those in need, both within our congregation and beyond.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.In what ways can I demonstrate generosity in my own life, whether through time, resources, or support?

2.Do I have a tendency to withhold my resources from those in need? How can I work on being more open-handed?

3.What steps can I take to better understand the needs in my community and how I might help?

September 13

Reading and Reflection

Reading:

- Acts 2:42-47

Cross-Reference:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (The body of Christ)
- Ephesians 4:1-6 (Unity in the Spirit)

Reflection:

Take this day to review and summarize what you've learned throughout the week.

How can the principles from Acts 2:42-47 be applied to your local church community?

Take some intentional time to pray about what you've read this week and how this can apply to what you do daily. Ask for the Holy Spirit to continue to speak to you as you read through the scriptures and devotions.

September 14
Sermon Notes

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Week 3
September 15-20

September 15

The Power of Faith

Reading:

- Acts 3:1-2

Cross-Reference:

- Luke 18:1 (Men ought always to pray)
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Pray without ceasing)

“But Peter said, ‘I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!’”

-Acts 3:6

Devotional Thought:

Peter’s words reflect the essence of faith in action. While he had no material wealth to offer the lame man, he provided something far more valuable: healing through the name of Jesus. This story urges us to consider how we can be conduits of God’s power and grace, sharing the hope of Christ with those in need around us.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.What gifts or strengths do I have that I can share with others, particularly those who are hurting or in need?

2.How can I actively look for opportunities to help those around me in a meaningful way?

3.Have I ever neglected to use my faith to reach out and minister to someone’s needs? What can I learn from that experience?

September 16

A Life Transformed

Reading:

- Acts 3:3-5

Cross-Reference:

- James 2:15-16 (Faith without works is dead)
- Matthew 25:40 (Whatever you did for one of the least of these)

“And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.”

-Acts 3:8

Devotional Thought:

The healing of the lame man serves as a powerful image of transformation. His new ability to walk became a cause for celebration and worship. In our own lives, we may have areas where we feel stuck or broken. Recognizing God’s transformative power can inspire us to respond with gratitude and worship, celebrating His work in us.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.What areas of my life need God’s transformative power, and how can I invite Him into those situations?

2.How can I cultivate a heart of gratitude for the changes God has made in my life?

3.In what ways do I express praise for God’s goodness, both privately and publicly?

September 17

Sharing the Good News

Reading:

- Acts 3:6-8

Cross-Reference:

- Mark 16:17-18 (Believers will perform signs)
- James 5:14-15 (Prayer of faith will save the sick)

“Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this? Or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”

-Acts 3:12

Devotional Thought:

Peter’s response to the crowd underscores the importance of directing glory to God rather than himself. He emphasizes that the healing was not due to personal merit but a demonstration of God’s power. This devotion encourages us to reflect on how we can effectively share the goodness of Christ and redirect credit to Him in our lives and testimonies.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.How comfortable am I with sharing my faith story and pointing others to God as the source of my strength?

2.Do I give credit to God for the good things in my life, or do I often take the glory for myself?

3.How can I practice humility in my witness to others, ensuring God is glorified?

September 18

Repentance and Renewal

Reading:

- Acts 3:9-10

Cross-Reference:

- Revelation 12:11 (Overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony)
- Psalm 105:1 (Make His deeds known among the peoples)

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.”
-Acts 3:19

Devotional Thought:

In Peter’s sermon, he calls the people to repentance as a pathway to renewal. Repentance is not just about feeling sorrow for our sins but is an active decision to turn away from those behaviors and seek God’s forgiveness. This devotion invites us to explore the path of repentance in our own lives, recognizing its vital role in experiencing God’s grace.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.Are there sins or habits in my life that I need to genuinely repent for and turn away from?

2.How do I view repentance—is it a heavy burden, or do I see it as an opportunity for renewal and growth?

3.What steps can I take to create a regular practice of self-reflection and repentance?

September 19

Hope in Christ

Reading:

- Acts 3:11-16

Cross-Reference:

- 1 Peter 3:15 (Always be prepared to give an answer)
- Matthew 5:16 (Let your light shine before men)

“And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

-Acts 3:25

Devotional Thought:

Peter reminds the crowd of the promise made to Abraham about the blessing through his offspring, connecting it to Jesus. This affirmation of hope emphasizes God's faithfulness to His promises across generations. For us, this serves as a reminder that our faith in Christ secures our hope and a future that contributes to God's plan of salvation for all.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.How does knowing that I am part of God's promise and plan give me hope in difficult circumstances?

2.In what ways can I share the hope of Christ with others, particularly those who feel lost or hopeless?

3.How can I deepen my understanding of God's promises in Scripture to strengthen my faith?

September 20

Reading and Reflection

Reading:

- Acts 3:17-26

Cross-Reference:

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 (If my people humble themselves...)
- Acts 2:38 (Repent and be baptized)

Reflection:

Contemplate Peter's call to repentance for the people.

What does true repentance involve, and how does it lead to times of refreshing?

Take some intentional time to pray about what you've read this week and how this can apply to what you do daily. Ask for the Holy Spirit to continue to speak to you as you read through the scriptures and devotions.

September 21
Sermon Notes

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Week 4
September 22-27

September 22

Boldness in the Face of Opposition

Reading:

- Acts 4:1-3

Cross-Reference:

- John 15:18-20 (If the world hates you...)
- 2 Timothy 3:12 (All who wish to live godly in Christ will be persecuted)

“And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’”
-Acts 4:7

Devotional Thought:

Peter and John found themselves facing the Sanhedrin, a powerful council that had the authority to intimidate and threaten. However, they didn't waver in their witness. This passage challenges us to evaluate our own responses to opposition. Are we willing to stand firm in our faith, even when pressures from the world around us rise?

Questions (write your answers below):

1. When have I faced opposition for my beliefs, and how did I respond?

2. What fears hold me back from sharing my faith boldly with others?

3. How can I seek God's strength to confront challenges in my faith journey with courage?

September 23

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Reading:

- Acts 4:4

Cross-Reference:

- Romans 1:16 (The Gospel is the power of God for salvation)
- 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (God gives the increase)

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...”
-Acts 4:8

Devotional Thought:

Peter's bold proclamation was not through his own resolve but because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. This highlights the importance of relying on God's Spirit for empowerment and guidance. In our daily lives, we must cultivate a close relationship with the Holy Spirit to be bold witnesses for Christ.

Questions (write your answers below):

1.How often do I consciously invite the Holy Spirit to work in and through me?

2.What practices can I implement to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading?

3.In what areas of my life do I need the Holy Spirit's empowerment right now?

September 24

The Name Above All Names

Reading:

- Acts 4:5-7

Cross-Reference:

- Proverbs 28:1 (The righteous are as bold as a lion)
- 1 Peter 3:15 (Always be prepared to give an answer)

“...by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.”
-Acts 4:10

Devotional Thought:

Peter's declaration emphasizes the power in the name of Jesus, who brings healing and salvation. By attributing the healing of the lame man to Jesus, Peter clarified that faith in Christ is central to the Gospel. This devotion beckons us to recall the power of Jesus' name in our prayers and lives, recognizing that it holds authority over all circumstances.

Questions (write your answers below):

1. How can I incorporate the name of Jesus into my daily prayers and conversations?

2. What does it mean for me to rely on the authority of Jesus in challenging situations?

3. In what areas of my life do I need to invoke the name of Jesus for healing, hope, or strength?

September 25

The Importance of Community

Reading:

- Acts 4:8-10

Cross-Reference:

- Luke 12:11-12 (The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say)
- Ephesians 6:19-20 (Pray for boldness in proclaiming the Gospel)

“And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”
-Acts 4:13

Devotional Thought:

The Sanhedrin noticed that Peter and John had been with Jesus. Our time spent with Christ through prayer, reading Scripture, and community will reflect in our character and actions. This profound connection fosters transformation, making us recognizable as His followers. How are we cultivating our personal relationship with Jesus, and how does it impact our witness?

Questions (write your answers below):

- 1.How does my relationship with Jesus influence my daily life and interactions?
- 2.What can I do to deepen my time spent with Him in prayer and Scripture?
- 3.How can my church community support me in growing closer to Christ?

September 26

The Challenge of Silence

Reading:

- Acts 4:11-12

Cross-Reference:

- Ephesians 2:19-22 (Jesus as our cornerstone)
- John 14:6 (Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life)

"For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."
-Acts 4:20

Devotional Thought:

Peter and John boldly declared their commitment to share the Gospel, regardless of the threats against them. This devotion invites us to reflect on the essential nature of our testimony. In what ways are we silenced in our faith, and how can we be more vocal about the impact Jesus has had on our lives?

Questions (write your answers below):

1.What prevents me from speaking about my faith more openly with friends, family, or colleagues?

2.How can I practice sharing my personal testimony in everyday conversations?

3.What role does gratitude play in my willingness to speak boldly about Christ?

September 27

Reading and Reflection

Reading:

- Acts 4:13-22

Cross-Reference:

- Acts 5:29 (We must obey God rather than men)
- Matthew 10:32 (Whoever acknowledges me before others...)

Reflection:

Reflect on the Sanhedrin's response and the resolve of Peter and John.

How can we remain committed to our faith despite opposition or pressure to remain silent?

Take some intentional time to pray about what you've read this week and how this can apply to what you do daily. Ask for the Holy Spirit to continue to speak to you as you read through the scriptures and devotions.

September 28
Sermon Notes

