

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How are these men to be our example under these circumstances?
2. What was the ministry of the apostles?
3. When do you feel closest to God?
4. Did the Apostles have the Holy Spirit before Pentecost?
(John 20:22, Acts 1:8)

SUMMARY:

The apostles and others were in Jerusalem waiting to receive the Holy Spirit that Christ promised He would send to them. There was some unfinished work that had to be done concerning Judas (vs. 16) who had been a part of them.

Until the faithful apostles severed themselves completely with any connection with Judas and filled his office with another faithful apostle, they were not ready to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. So, with us also, if sin is present in our hearts and lives, we cannot expect Christ's Spirit to dwell there. ^[SoF:9] Preparation of the heart and mind is a prerequisite to every spiritual blessing.

NOTES:

^[SoF:9] We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the believer is empowered to live a Godly life in spiritual unity with Christ.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

October 8, 2023

Fourth Quarter

PREPARATIONS FOR PENTECOST

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 1:12-26*

LESSON SETTING: The apostles and followers returned from the Mt. of Olives to Jerusalem to the upper room where the apostles lived.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D. - just after Christ's ascension.

- I. THE FAITHFUL APOSTLES.** Acts 1:12-14
 - A. Saw Christ in the Flesh. Acts 15:5; 1 Corinthians 9:1; 1 John 1:1
 - B. Witness of the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.
Luke 24:33-41, 51; Acts 1:2-9; Acts 10:40-41
 - C. Empowered to work Miracles. ^[SoF:9] Matthew 10:1,8; Mark 16:20
- II. THE UNFAITHFUL APOSTLE.** Acts 1:15-20
 - A. Chosen by Christ. Matthew 10:4; Psalm 41:9
 - B. Fell by Transgression. Acts 1:25
 - C. Name Removed from the Book of Life. Psalm 69:28
- III. THE NEW APOSTLE.** Acts 1:21-26
 - A. Witnessed Jesus' Life, Death, Resurrection. Acts 1:21-22
 - B. Selected through Prayer, Faith, Divine Guidance. Acts 1:24-26

GOLDEN TEXT: *BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU: AND YE SHALL BE WITNESS UNTO ME BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA, AND IN SAMARIA, AND UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH.*
Acts 1:8

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 28:9-13; Joel 2:28-32;
John 7:37-39

QUARTERLY THEME: The Early Church

TOPIC: THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION:

In the time of the Old Testament, God's Spirit was present among His people: He often spoke audibly to the people or sent angels to deliver His messages; He spoke in the form of clouds and fire. Today He does not do so, as it certainly is not necessary. He has given us something far more wonderful, His Spirit which in all certainty, is a Holy person living within our very being.

He speaks to us telling us of God's Will, glorifying Christ within us, leading us as we should be led. He first was given to mankind, after Christ's resurrection and received of the disciples as they waited for Him. He came in the form of tongues of fire and was present within every true disciple of Christ. What a thrill of amazement must have been theirs when they knew the Holy Spirit was present within each heart!

CENTRAL TRUTH: The Holy Spirit comes to make believers more effective in their witness.

GOLDEN TEXT: *AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAITH GOD, I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH.*
Acts 2:17

How great is God, and how unsearchable is His love for mankind! In spite of man's sin and disobedience, God longed for man to be restored. During the dispensation of the law, God the Creator was always near to those who sincerely sought Him. When all else failed because of man's fallen nature and inability to do the good, God, the Son, came to this earth to reveal His good will toward men. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son." (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Now, in the time of the apostles, God the Holy Spirit, was prepared to come into prepared hearts. This truly was the beginning of the last days, when the Spirit would come unto all who sought God in His fullness. God through His law intended for man to realize the need for God the Savior. Jesus, in finishing the work of redemption, promised to send God the Spirit to His followers, for whom He, at God's right hand, intercedes. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 9 – 15

- Mon. Cause for Rejoicing. Joel 2:21-27
- Tue. A Divine Promise. Joel 2:28-32
- Wed. A Great Invitation. John 7:37-39
- Thu. The Spirit's Guidance John 16:12-16
- Fri. *The Spirit's Coming. Acts 2:1-4
- Sat. *The Multitudes Wonder. Acts 2:5-13
- Sun. *The Apostle's Answer. Acts 2:14-21

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