

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

The book of *Acts* gives the account of God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

APPLYING GOD’S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Call on the Name of the Lord! He has accomplished exactly what He promised and proven that salvation is only through Him.

How Are You (We) Resting in His Protection? If He is faithful in all His promises and we are trusting in Him, we have nothing to fear.

Live Sacrificially Trusting Christ! As we know safety in Christ it frees us up to love others boldly. It’s only risky if Christ is not the Lord.

Psalm 116: 1 – 4

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
February 9th, 2020

Morning Service:

Acts 2: 12 – 23

What Does the Holy Spirit’s Coming Mean?

1. The Prophesied “Last Days” Have Arrived.
2. Jesus Is the Promised Lord Pouring Out His Spirit.
3. All Who Call Upon the Name of the Lord Will Be Saved.

God Himself promised through Joel that He would pour out His Spirit. Since Jesus has now given His disciples the Spirit in power as He said, it is clear that He is the Lord to whom we should call for rescue. Have you called upon Jesus as your Lord? Are you living in His shelter?

Evening Service:

Elder Gil Emery
Psalm 21

Jesus is King

1. Blessings as God’s adopted.
2. The strength of God provides.
3. The King, Jesus, is all we need.

Notes:

Taking Gathered Worship Home

The whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar about the miraculous events of Pentecost. The critical question rang out, “What does this mean?” How do we make sense of the supernatural? Peter points them to an explanation that had long been recorded in God’s Word, a prophesy that had foretold this day would come. God had promised that He would do exactly what they see happening in the last days.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Acts 2:12-23; Hebrews 1:1-4**. DISCUSS, Why did God promise to send the Holy Spirit to His People? What does Christ’s fulfillment of this promise mean? PRAY for God to unite us in prayer for His Kingdom work each day.

Sunday PM

READ **Psalm 21; First Peter 4:1-2**. How does Scripture talk about Jesus’ kingship? What does it mean to serve our King? PRAISE God for His Kingdom. REPENT of ways we disobey our King.

Monday

READ **Acts 2:1-18; Joel 2:28-29**. DISCUSS, What is significant about God pouring out His Spirit on all their sons and daughters, young and old? How does the Holy Spirit’s filling fulfill that? Who was gathered in the Upper Room? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends & family, asking God to show them His glory in Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 2:12-18; 2 Peter 3:1-13**. DISCUSS, How do we answer the scoffers (sometimes our own doubt)? Some dismissed the disciples at Pentecost as drunkards. Peter warns also against the argument that the world continues as it always has, but the Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise. Why should we believe? How should we be waiting? PRAY, “Lord, enable us to trust You and use Your power for Your glory.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 2:17-18; Proverbs 1:20-33**. DISCUSS, Notice how the Spirit has ALWAYS been necessary for us to understand God’s ways. How does God make His Word known to us? MEDITATE on the astonishing gift of God’s Spirit. REJOICE if you are a witness to Christ’s sacrifice for you. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Spirit. Embolden us!”

Thursday

READ **Acts 2:16-23; Psalm 116:1-19**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? Have you done this? Are you living like it? REJOICE in the salvation that Jesus provided us. PRAY, “Lord, enable us to trust You and follow Your Holy Spirit’s leading as we await Your return. Amen.”

Friday

READ **Acts 2:12-23**. How has God been teaching you from this passage this week? REJOICE for Christ has not left us alone, but given us His promised Holy Spirit! PRAY for our neighbors to see God and themselves as they truly are and so run to Christ.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Acts 2:22-39**. Invite others to come with you to worship tomorrow. Pray for God’s glory to be shown through us as we extend His grace and celebrate it together.

Hebrews 1: 1 – 4

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but **in these last days** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as **the name** he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”