

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

From Acts Chapter One

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Trust Christ! He has accomplished exactly what He promised.

How Are You (We) Using His Power? What does this look like for God to indwell us and empower us to do His Kingdom work?

Pray! Ask the Lord to embolden us to trust Him and make use of His power within us. Ask others to pray for you in these ways, too.

Daniel—Series Overview

Holy Living in a Hostile World

The book of Daniel was written to console and motivate God’s people during desperate times. It shows us how to live faithfully in the midst of a faithless world. It is a book-long treatment of Christ’s command to be in the world but not of it (John 15:17). But the book of Daniel is far more than a “how-to” manual. It sets in context the whole flow of history. It shows that all of history is *His story*—the story of God’s redeeming work for His people. From the horrific discipline of the exile to the horrors of the cross, God is sovereignly directing all human history for the redemption of His saints.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
February 2nd, 2020

Morning Service:

Acts 2: 1 – 11

A Bewildering Birthday Celebration

1. We Need to Understand Pentecost’s Context.
2. The Holy Spirit Provides God’s People with Power.
3. How Is This Possible?

The appointed day arrives and God’s people receive the Holy Spirit in a miraculous way that perplexed the whole city of Jerusalem. They can’t believe what they hear. But it is true. God has been faithful to all His promises and He is now supernaturally working through His people to declare it boldly. How are we participating in this phenomenal work of God?

Evening Service:

Daniel 1: 1 – 7

God’s Beloved in Captivity

1. Overview of Daniel.
2. God’s Holy Ones Are Defiled.
3. The Greater King Will Purify His Defiled Ones.

There is a personal loving God in charge of history—all that happens. He passionately loves His people with whom He patiently works through time to bring to redemption in Christ. He is the King of Kings, using even pagan kings from Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus for the good of His beloved ones.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

It's a birthday party that has been millennia in the making. The Church of Christ, His holy people, receive a gift beyond imagination. The Holy Spirit fills them all and empowers them to proclaim the wonders of God that everyone can understand.

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 2:1-11; Psalm 22:27-28**. DISCUSS, Why did Jesus promise to send the Holy Spirit to His People? Compare and contrast the Spirit's presence in the Old Testament to the Church today. PRAY for God to unite us in prayer for His Kingdom work each day.

Sunday PM

READ **Daniel 1:1-7; Romans 12:1-2**. How was Daniel conformed to the world? What does it mean to be transformed instead? PRAISE God for His care. REPENT of ways we are conforming to the world.

Monday

READ **Acts 2:1-3; Deuteronomy 16:1-6**. DISCUSS, Why was it important for God's people to gather in God's presence? How does the Holy Spirit's filling fulfill that? How is it still not the completeness we will experience when Christ returns for us? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to show them His glory in Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 2:1-3; Exodus 34:21-24**. DISCUSS, What is the significance of God giving His law to His people? How does this enact the covenant? How is that true of the reception of the Holy Spirit? PRAY, "Lord, thank You for coming to Your people in power. Enable us to trust You and use Your power for Your glory."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 2:1-6; Numbers 11:16-30**. DISCUSS, How do each group's utterances proclaim the glory of God? What is the relationship between prophesy and tongues? MEDITATE on the astonishing gift of God's Word. REJOICE if you are a witness to Christ's sacrifice for you. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for enabling us to share Your sacred Word. Give us boldness."

Thursday

READ **Acts 2:6-11; 1:8; 13:47; Luke 11:31; Mark 13:27; Romans 10:14-21**. DISCUSS, What is the role of an overseer? Why are they necessary for the Church's health? REJOICE in the certainty that Jesus is on His throne. PRAY, "Lord, enable to trust You and follow Your Holy Spirit's leading as we await Your return. Amen."

Friday

READ **Acts 2:1-11**. How have you been growing in your understanding and application of this passage this week? REJOICE for Christ has not left us alone, but given us His promised Holy Spirit! PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance (and our continuing repentance). Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Acts 2:12-21**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Upper Valley. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.

Psalm 22:27

*"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you."*