St. Stephen AME Zion Church

5-WEEK VIRTUAL

HOLY SPIRIT & PENTECOST



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 7PM

zoom LIVE

ID: 538 095 5668
Passcode: 1001



Rev. Dianne Tam, CED Coordinator



The Promise, The Power, The Presence

A Bible Study on the Holy Spirit & Pentecost

Don’t just admire Pentecost – live in it



Week	Bible Lesson	Scriptures
1	The Promise	John 14:16-17, Acts 1:4-5
2	The Waiting Season	Acts 1:12-14, Isaiah 40:31
3	Pentecost Power	Acts 2:1–4, Joel 2:28–29
4	Purpose of Pentecost	Acts 2:5–12, Acts 2:37–41
5	Life in the Spirit Daily Walk	Acts 2:42–47, Galatians 5:22–23 Romans 8:1–14, Galatians 5:16

Acts 1 (Living Bible)

1 [1-2] Dear friend who loves God:
In my first letter[a] I told you about Jesus' life and teachings and how he returned to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions from the Holy Spirit. [3] During the forty days after his crucifixion he appeared to the apostles from time to time, actually alive, and proved to them in many ways that it was really he himself they were seeing. And on these occasions he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.
[4] In one of these meetings he told them not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them in fulfillment of the Father's promise, a matter he had previously discussed with them.
[5] "John baptized you with water,"[b] he reminded them, "but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit in just a few days."
[6] And another time when he appeared to them, they asked him, "Lord, are you going to free Israel from Rome[c] now and restore us as an independent nation?"
[7] "The Father sets those dates," he replied, "and they are not for you to know. [8] But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection."
[9] It was not long afterwards that he rose into the sky and disappeared into a cloud, leaving them staring after him.

Acts 1 (Living Bible) (Continued)

10 As they were straining their eyes for another glimpse, suddenly two white-robed
men were standing there among them, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why are you
standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone away to heaven, and some day, just as
he went, he will return!”
12 They were at the Mount of Olives when this happened, so now they walked the half
mile back to Jerusalem 13 and held a prayer meeting in an upstairs room of the house
where they were staying.
Here is the list of those who were present at the meeting: Peter, John, James, Andrew,
Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (also called
“The Zealot”), Judas (son of James), and the brothers of Jesus. 14 Several women,
including Jesus’ mother, were also there.
15 This prayer meeting went on for several days. During this time, on a day when about
120 people were present, Peter stood up and addressed them as follows:
16 “Brothers, it was necessary for the Scriptures to come true concerning Judas, who
betrayed Jesus by guiding the mob to him, for this was predicted long ago by the Holy
Spirit, speaking through King David. 17 Judas was one of us, chosen to be an apostle
just as we were. 18 He bought a field with the money he received for his treachery and
falling headlong there, he burst open, spilling out his bowels.

Acts 1 (Living Bible) (Continued)

19 The news of his death spread rapidly among all the people of Jerusalem, and they named the place ‘The Field of Blood.’ 20 King David’s prediction of this appears in the Book of Psalms, where he says, ‘Let his home become desolate with no one living in it.’ And again, ‘Let his work be given to someone else to do.’
21-22 “So now we must choose someone else to take Judas’ place and to join us as witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection. Let us select someone who has been with us constantly from our first association with the Lord—from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us into heaven.”
23 The assembly nominated two men: Joseph Justus (also called Barsabbas) and Matthias. 24-25 Then they all prayed for the right man to be chosen. “O Lord,” they said, “you know every heart; show us which of these men you have chosen as an apostle to replace Judas the traitor, who has gone on to his proper place.”
26 Then they drew straws,[d] and in this manner Matthias was chosen and became an apostle with the other eleven.

Acts 1: Preparing for Pentecost

- Bridge between Resurrection and Pentecost
- Shift from Jesus' ministry to Holy Spirit

Context of Acts 1

- Written by Luke
- Continuation of the Gospel
- Post-resurrection appearances of Jesus

What does it mean to wait?

VERB

- ***waited; waiting; waits***
- to stay in place in expectation of : await
- to delay serving (a meal)
- to serve as waiter for
- to remain stationary in readiness or expectation
- to pause for another to catch up

The Promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5)

- Command to wait
- Promise of the Father
- Baptism with the Holy Spirit
  - To be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** means to be **filled, empowered, and immersed in God's Spirit**, not just touched by Him—but *fully surrounded and influenced by Him*.

👉 Think of it like this:
Water baptism is being dipped in water…
Spirit baptism is being "dipped" in God's presence and power.

Why Waiting Matters

- Walking with Jesus ≠ empowerment
- Preparation precedes power
- Dependence on God

Purpose of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

- You shall receive power
- You shall be witnesses
- Local to global mission

Power Produces Witness

- Power (Dunamis)
- Witness = Testimony
- Spirit empowers your story

The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)

- Jesus ascends to heaven
- Mission shifts to disciples
- Promise of His return

Posture Before Pentecost (Acts 1:14)

- Prayer
- Unity
- Expectation

Acts 1 to Acts 2 Connection

- Promise → Fulfillment
- Waiting → Outpouring
- Instruction → Demonstration

Key Takeaway

- The Holy Spirit gives power
- Power produces witness
- Witness produces testimony

Why We Become Impatient Waiting on God

- Waiting is a spiritual struggle
- God works in process, not pressure

We Don’t See What God Is Doing

- God works behind the scenes
- Silence does not mean absence

We Are Conditioned for Immediate Results

- Culture values speed
- God values timing
- Everything is beautiful in its time

Waiting Challenges Our Control

- We cannot force outcomes
- We must trust God’s process
- Impatience reveals desire for control

We Mistake Delay for Denial

- Delay is not denial
- God’s timing is intentional
- Wait for the vision

Waiting Produces Growth

- Strength
- Trust
- Spiritual maturity

Biblical Pattern of Waiting

- Abraham waited
- David waited
- Disciples waited in Acts 1

Acts 1 Connection

- Disciples told to wait
- Preparation before power
- Waiting positioned them for Pentecost

Key Takeaway

- Waiting is not wasted
- Waiting is preparation
- God is working while you wait

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint..

Isaiah 40:31 – Waiting on God

- They that wait upon the Lord
- Shall renew their strength
- Foundation for Spirit-empowered living

Historical Context

- Israel in exile
- People weary and discouraged
- God speaks comfort and restoration

What Does 'Wait' Mean?

- Active trust in God
- Hopeful expectation
- Dependence on God’s timing

Renewed Strength

- Exchange of strength
- Human weakness → Divine strength
- God supplies what we lack

Connection to Acts 1

- Disciples commanded to wait
- Preparation before power
- Waiting positions believers

Connection to Pentecost (Acts 2)

- Promise fulfilled
- Holy Spirit comes with power
- Waiting leads to empowerment

Mount Up with Wings as Eagles

- Spiritual elevation
- Soaring instead of striving
- Lifted by divine strength

Run and Not Be Weary

- Supernatural endurance
- Strength to continue
- Sustained by God

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Waiting on God (Acts 1 Perspective)

What to Do While Waiting	Scripture Reference	What It Means (Layman's Terms)
Stay in Position (Obedience)	Acts 1:4	Be where God told you to be.
Wait with Expectation	Acts 1:5	Believe God will move.
Pray Consistently	Acts 1:14	Stay connected to God.
Stay in Unity	Acts 1:14	Walk with others in faith.
Be a Witness	Acts 1:8	Share your faith.
Be Productive / Do the Work	Acts 1:8; 1:21–26	Keep doing God's work while waiting.
Prepare for What's Next	Acts 1:21–22	Get ready spiritually.
Trust God's Timing	Acts 1:7	Focus on obedience, not timing.

Waiting is not inactivity – it's intentional alignment with God

Key Teaching

- Waiting is preparation
- God renews strength
- Holy Spirit empowers believers

Review of scriptures:

- Isaiah 40:31 (Waiting)
- Acts 1 (Waiting in obedience)
- Acts 2 (power of the Holy Spirit)

Anchor Statement

- Waiting is not weakness
- It is preparation for power

Review of Scriptures

- Isaiah 40:31 (Waiting)
- Acts 1 (Waiting in obedience)
- Acts 2 (power of the Holy Spirit)

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the promise of Your Holy Spirit.
Help us to wait on You and not move ahead in our own strength

Fill us afresh, O God,
And let Your Spirit guide, strengthen, and empower us
To live and walk in Your truth.

Position our hearts to receive all the You have promised,
And help us to trust Your timing.

In Jesus' name,
Amen