



## KNOWING THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF GOD

### LESSON EIGHT

#### WHAT DISCIPLES DO

WHICH OF THE HAPPENINGS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS COULD HAPPEN WITH BELIEVERS TODAY? WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE? WHAT WOULD BE THE RESPONSE?

1. Some of the highlights of the second chapter of Acts: The believers were together when a sound like a violent wind came from heaven and filled the house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. People already gathered in Jerusalem from every nation heard the sound and each visitor heard them declaring the wonders of God in their own language. Peter explained that what happened was spoken by the prophet Joel about God pouring out His Spirit on all people in the last days. Sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Peter told the crowd that the man they crucified was raised to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what they saw and heard. Acts 2:38-39 NIV Peter replied, “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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
2. From Acts chapters 3 and 4: Peter said to a crippled man, “*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.*” The man was able to walk. Peter told the crowd that gathered to repent and have faith in Jesus who healed the man. Many believed and the rulers, elders and teachers of the law questioned Peter who told them that salvation is found in Christ alone. When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, but told them not to teach at all in the name of Jesus. Peter and John met with fellow believers and they prayed. Acts 4:29-31 NIV “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
3. Read Acts 9:1-31 about Saul (later named Paul) who went from persecuting the Christians to being healed of blindness, being baptized as a believer in Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. He later wrote most of the letters now part of the New Testament of the Holy Bible.
4. Read Acts 18:24-19:7 Apollos had been instructed in the way of the Lord and spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila heard him and explained to him the way of God more adequately. Paul also discovered some disciples in Ephesus that had not received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They said that they had not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. They had received John’s baptism of repentance so they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on

them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

5. Read Acts 16:6-15 about Paul and his companions being kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching in one area and being led to help people in another. Paul spoke with a group of women. Lydia had her heart opened by God to respond to Paul's message and she and her household were baptized. We can give our testimony and teaching about Jesus but it is the Lord who opens hearts. John 6:65 also states: . . . "*no one can come unto Me except it were given unto him of my Father.*" Read also Matthew 11:27b
6. Acts 14:3 *NIV So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there (in Iconium) speaking boldly for the Lord who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.*
7. Acts 18:19-21 tells that Paul reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue. *When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. But as he left, he promised to come back if it is God's will.*  
Read James 4:13-15 about using the words 'if it is God's will.'

Further study: Read these references about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts and know the Holy Spirit still works in these ways today: Acts 1:8 2:4 and 2:17 4:8 and 31 6:3-10 7:55 8:15-17 9:17 and 31 10:44 13:2 and 4 15:28 16:6 19:2 and 6

**Acts 5:32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.**

Recorded in Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus taught, "*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*" Explain how this Scripture relates to your life.