

# GROWTH + GROUPS

## NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 05.19.2024

HOW TO EXPERIENCE GODS POWER- ACTS 1-2

### PART 1: Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us “For 3 ½ amazing years, the disciples had the incredible privilege of doing life with Jesus. It must have been thrilling. During that brief season, they literally got to walk and talk with God in human flesh. They saw the sick healed, lepers cleansed, demons flee, and the dead raised to life. It was like heaven on earth. I’m sure they expected things to go on like this forever, but then one night, Jesus crushed them with the devastating news that He was going to leave. He went on to say it was to their advantage that He go. They must have thought, ‘How could He say that? What could possibly be better than having You with us 24 hours a day?’ Jesus explained that if He went, He could send the Holy Spirit, whom He described as ‘another helper’ who was ‘already with them but would soon be in them.’ The disciples had no category in their minds for an experience like that. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit rested on individuals for certain tasks and seasons, but He never lived in people in a permanent way. Jesus was preparing them for a whole new paradigm shift in the way they related with Him.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel’s sermon?
2. What is the most dramatic thing you have ever witnessed? Do you enjoy telling people about what you experienced? Why or why not?
3. What, in your own words, does it mean to be a witness? Why do you think Jesus chose that word to describe what His followers would be in the world?

**Acts 1:8** gives the church, both past and present, its marching orders. We are to faithfully share with the rest of the world the story of what Jesus has done for us. We can do so confidently because we believe that we have been changed by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and sent out as witnesses to change the world.

### PART 2: Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 1:1-8

1. In your own words, what was Jesus’ mission?
2. What was Jesus’ purpose during the forty days after His resurrection? What does that have to do with us 2,000 years later?

During the forty days after His resurrection and prior to His ascension, Jesus taught the disciples further about the kingdom of God and indicated that they would be part of His mission to continue the things He had begun “to do and teach.” Today, believers need to know what Jesus did and taught about the kingdom of God so they can understand their own mission as witnesses for Him.

3. According to Jesus in verse 8, what purpose does the power of the Holy Spirit serve? How does the scope of the task Jesus issues relate to this power?

Jesus directly connected the power to accomplish the commission He was giving with the presence of the Holy Spirit. The equation is simple: without the Spirit, there is no power. The Spirit is the One who enables believers to overcome their fears and to fulfill what their Master has asked them to do.

4. What evidence could you point to that shows the Spirit's power at work in your life or the life of our church?
5. Why was the Spirit important for the mission of the disciples? Why is He important for ours?

While the disciples clearly did not fully understand the nature of God's kingdom in Christ, Jesus did not chastise them for their misunderstanding. Rather, He affirmed that they could never fully know what God had fixed to occur by His authority. Their role as Jesus' disciples was to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit to share the truth of the gospel locally and globally.

6. What does it mean to be Jesus' witness? What are we witnesses to?
7. Are we witnesses if we never share Christ with others?

In a court of law, a witness is someone who has seen or experienced something and then tells others about it. In Christianity, a witness is someone who has experienced Jesus Christ through the gospel and then tells others about Him. But either way, the witness must be communicated.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:1-13

1. What is the significance for Luke that the believers were "all together in one place" (v. 1)?
2. What happened when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers? How do you interpret these signs?

**The miraculous signs that accompanied the Spirit included sound, sight, and speech. The sound and the sight were preliminary; the speech was evidence they were filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit is to be empowered by the Spirit. On this occasion the Spirit gave them ability for speech.**

1. How does being filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit relate to bearing witness to Jesus?
2. What difference does the fulness of the Spirit make in witnessing to others and living the Christian life?
3. In what ways does the reality of the Spirit's life-giving, permanent presence in your heart affect your view of Christian living?

In the old covenant era (the Old Testament), the Holy Spirit came upon men and women to empower them for the work God had called them to accomplish, but His work was not on such a grand scale. When God promised to establish a new covenant, He also promised to give His Spirit. And the nature of the Holy Spirit's work would be different in the new covenant than in the old. All who belong to God because of the work of Jesus Christ receive the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence.

4. What were the two basic reactions of the residents of Jerusalem to the phenomenon of tongues?

Because of the festival celebrations, many foreigners were in Jerusalem at this time from all over the known world (vv. 9-11). Through the Holy Spirit's power, the disciples were enabled to communicate the gospel to people who spoke a wide variety of languages. This amazed the crowd. Some even thought the disciples were drunk. Miracles and signs alone aren't enough to introduce people to Jesus and the salvation He offers, but what happened on the Day of Pentecost did give the apostles, led by Peter, a good foundation for teaching the gospel and a curious audience to hear it.

5. How does having the Holy Spirit's power make a difference in how you have been able to serve God?

PART 3: Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

*"The world doesn't need our gimmicks and tricks. Nor are they interested in our clever sermons. They can get better entertainment on Netflix and hear funnier comedians on YouTube, but the one thing they can't get out there that they desperately need is a genuine display of the power of God. There is no substitute for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. When God's Spirit shows up, it's better than anything you or I could plan. When He walks into a room, sickness leaves, demons flee, depression lifts, joy overflows, salvations happen, and breakthroughs multiply. We just need Him. That's it. So, how do we get Him? You already have Him living inside you if you're a believer. So, the question isn't, how do you get more of the Holy Spirit, but rather, how do I yield more of myself to Him? If we'll lean in, and learn to linger and wait for Him, He'll come, because God goes where He's wanted. God never promises to reward our curiosity with His presence, but He is a rewarder of those who 'diligently seek Him.'"*  
(Pastor Daniel)

1. Based on our study today, why would you say it is essential to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. What evidence shows that you have been filled / baptized with the Holy Spirit? How would you explain being filled with the Spirit to a new believer?
3. As a member of the church, how does the Spirit enable you to share the gospel and join in the church's mission? What is your next step in the mission?

**PRAYER:** Pray that in the midst of your roles that encompass family, work, and social contacts, you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to reap the harvest. Pray for the willingness to participate in God's mission globally in any way He sees fit. Give thanks to God for choosing to involve you in the expansion of His Kingdom.

*" 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*  
(Acts 1:8)