

# GROWTH + GROUPS

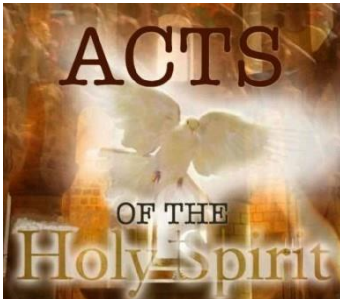
NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 07.05.2020

COME HOLY SPIRIT! – ACTS 1:1-7

## 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.



**The only thing that will move the world are lives ignited by the Spirit of God.** We will not move the world either by criticism or by conformity to it. *Only the Fire of God can ignite lives by the Spirit of God.* The early Church had none of the things we think essential for success today – buildings, money political influence, social status – yet the Church turned Rome upside down and conquered her from within! Why? Because the Church had the Power of the Holy Spirit energizing their witness and ministry. Luke, the author of the book of Acts, a companion of Paul the Apostle, who was the author also of the Gospel according to Luke, wrote these 2 books to a friend, Theophilus. Theophilus was a Greek Name with a beautiful meaning: “Lover of God.”

Some believe it was written to all lovers of God. Others believe it was written to a real person. One tradition says Theophilus was Luke's master. In those days Physicians were often slave/servants for hire – who released Luke to travel with Paul. The key word in Acts 1:1 is “began.” The Gospel of Luke is not the full story of Jesus ministry. It is only the *beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ.* Jesus continues to minister to the needs of people. Jesus continues to heal the sick. Jesus continues to deliver people from demons. Jesus continues to do signs and wonders. He continues to minister His love and Gospel to the world, only now He is doing it through those disciples who have been anointed by the Holy Spirit. The ministry of Jesus is continuing, basically is the premise of Acts. And because of that the book of Acts is an unfinished book, through us disciples! *So, God has chosen to use You for such a time as this!* Let's get into our study...

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

1. What stood out or spoke to you most from Pastor Ray's message this weekend?
2. When was the last time you heard news that was so good you couldn't wait to share it with others? What was the news, and who did you want to share it with first?
3. No news is better than the gospel, yet we often hesitate to live boldly and share this news with others. What are some of the factors that can make some Christians uncomfortable about sharing their faith with others?

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 1:1-3 (Many Infallible Proofs)

1. In your own words, what was Jesus' mission?
2. Compare your answers with Luke 19:10. How does Luke 19:10 and the opening of the Book of Acts help you see where you and our church fit in Jesus' mission?

The main reason Jesus came to earth was not to perform miracles or to teach. He came “to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). Luke knew that Jesus suffered and died on the cross as the satisfaction for sin. God then raised

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Him from the dead. Further, He also presented Himself alive to His apostles. Luke called Jesus' resurrection appearances "convincing proofs." Not one of the witnesses doubted that Jesus was raised from the dead to new life. Only a resurrected Lord could truly save from sin.

3. Based on these verses in Acts, what can we conclude was Jesus' purpose during the 40 days after His resurrection? What does that have to do with us?
4. Name all of the "infallible truths" you can remember that prove that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead beyond the shadow of all doubt? (1 Cor. 15:4-9; Lk. 24:6-11)

**Jesus appeared over 40 days! During these 40 days after His resurrection and prior to His ascension**, Jesus taught the disciples further about the kingdom of God and indicated they would be part of His mission to continue the things He had **begun** "to do and teach." We need to know what Jesus did and taught about the kingdom of God so we can understand our own mission as witnesses for Him.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 1:4-7 (The Promise of the Father)

1. Why was the coming of the Holy Spirit essential to the disciples' obeying Jesus' Great Commission? How would the Spirit empower the disciples to carry out Jesus' mission?
2. How does this help us understand the role of the Spirit in our lives today? Why is He important for the ongoing mission of the church?

Jesus connected the power to accomplish the commission He was giving with the presence of the **Holy Spirit**. Jesus' disciples were to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit to share the truth of the gospel locally and globally. The Spirit is the energy that enables us to overcome our fears and to fulfill what Jesus has asked us to do.

3. What does it mean to be Jesus' witness? What are we witnesses to? How can we be His witnesses today if we have never seen Him?
4. Why are both our words and our actions essential parts of our witness for Christ? Are we witnesses if we never share our personal experiences with Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

In the Book of Acts, the apostles' main role is bearing witness to the earthly ministry of Jesus, above all to the reality of His resurrection as eyewitnesses of the risen Christ (see 2:32; 3:15; 10:39-41). We can testify not only from the biblical record, but from our own personal experience of what Jesus has done in our lives.

5. What obstacle did Jesus have to overcome as He taught His disciples about the kingdom?
6. What indication is there in 1:6 that the disciples did not understand the true nature of the kingdom?

### Applying God's Word

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

Jesus ministry on earth was to proclaim the Promise of the Ruach-HaKodesh, the "Holy Spirit," Jesus proclaimed that no man could live or witness for the LORD by depending on the arm of flesh. He knew that man needed a supernatural power, the power of God Himself. The very presence of God's Spirit has to enter into the very heart of man and impart the divine nature of God, recreating his being completely, living within his body, giving him the ability to love and live by His Spirit and Power. Jesus connected the power to accomplish the commission He was giving with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' disciples were to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit to share the truth of the gospel locally and globally. The Spirit is the energy that enables us to overcome our fears and to fulfill what Jesus has

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asked us to do. Now each of us can show our shortcomings, our faults, our imperfections and find an excuse why God would not want to use me. ***Yet God has chosen to use you, that through you, He might reveal Himself to a needy world! Amen.***

1. What would change if we saw ourselves (first and foremost) as those sent by God on His mission?
2. What, in your opinion, are the main challenges or barriers that keep us from obeying and fulfilling the Great Commission today? What can you do to combat these issues?
3. How can our church reach people with the gospel to the ends of the earth? What part will you play? Begin praying today for how God wants to use you.

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 love the world. Pray for the willingness to participate in God's mission globally in any way He sees fit. Continue to pray for a move of the Holy Spirit in our city and nation.

***“For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring” (Is.44:3)***