

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

The Beginning of the Church



Acts 1 - 8

Lesson 23: The Coming of the Holy Spirit

The Beginning of the Church

BIBLE

Book	Chapters	Author	Date
Acts	1 - 8	Luke	AD 62

SUMMARY

God promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower His people, a promise fulfilled at Pentecost when the Spirit descended and the Church was born. Empowered by the Spirit, the early believers formed a vibrant community and boldly carried the gospel to the world.

NOTES

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

- The prophet Joel foretells a future outpouring of God's Spirit on all people—men, women, young, and old. - Joel 2:28–29
- The prophet Ezekiel promises a new heart and Spirit to enable obedience and transformation. - Ezekiel 36:26–27
- Jesus assures the disciples of the coming 'Helper' —the Spirit of truth who will dwell in them. - John 14:16–17
- Jesus commands the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit. - Acts 1:4–5
- The Spirit will empower them to be witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. - Acts 1:8

Pentecost: The Spirit Descends

- The Holy Spirit comes with wind and fire, filling the disciples and enabling them to speak in other tongues. - Acts 2:1–4
- Jews from many nations hear the disciples speaking in their own languages - Acts 2:5–13
- Peter explains the event as the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy. - Acts 2:14–21
- He preaches Jesus as the risen Messiah, calling for repentance. - Acts 2:22–36
- About 3,000 people respond and are baptised, marking the birth of the Church. - Acts 2:37–41

The Empowered Church

- The believers devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. - Acts 2:42
- Signs and wonders are performed through the apostles. - Acts 2:43
- The community shares possessions and cares for one another's needs. - Acts 2:44–45
- They meet daily in the temple and homes with joy and unity. - Acts 2:46
- The Lord adds to their number daily those being saved. - Acts 2:47

The Mission Begins

- Peter and John heal a lame man and boldly preach, facing opposition from religious leaders. - Acts 3–4
- The apostles continue performing miracles and teaching despite persecution. - Acts 5
- Stephen is chosen as a leader and becomes the first martyr after boldly proclaiming Christ. - Acts 6–7
- Philip preaches in Samaria and to the Ethiopian eunuch, expanding the mission beyond Jerusalem. - Acts 8
- The gospel begins to spread to Judea, Samaria, and the wider world through Spirit-led believers.

KEY POINTS

1. God fulfils His promise by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell within and empower believers
2. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, as the Spirit enables bold proclamation and thousands respond in faith
3. The Spirit transforms community and mission, guiding the early Church in unity, worship, and global witness