

Notes - Book of Acts Study, Part 7 – Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Two main themes of the Book of Acts for this study:

1. Humanly speaking, the early Christians had nothing going for them. The church was new, with unproven leaders. They weren't educated, they had no money, no modern means for spreading the gospel. They faced incredible opposition and enormous obstacles. Yet they were empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the impossible and bring a simple salvation message to an unsaved world.
2. Persecution was meant to squash Christianity. But God took the very act of persecution and used it to spread the Gospel like wildfire. Another name for the Book of Acts could be "The Unstoppable Church".

Acts 1:8

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 2:1-3

¹ *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.* ² *Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.* ³ *They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

Last week: The Holy Spirit is the *breath of God*

One of the Hebrew names of God is Ruach Elohim, which means *Spirit of God*

Matthew 3:11

¹¹ *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

Baptize: completely immerse or submerge

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Linguistically, this is called a *hendiadys*

It is translated as *“He will baptize you in the raging fire of the Holy Spirit!*

Deuteronomy 4:24

²⁴ For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

God wanted their whole heart, not just part of it!

1 Peter 1:3-7

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.