

III. A Missional Community

A. A Persecuted Community (Acts 7; 8:1-4; 11:19-20)

B. A Prevailing Community (Acts 27)

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an
aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What is the implication in Acts 1:1 concerning the book of Acts?
- Beside power for mission, why else was it necessary for the disciples to wait for the promised Holy Spirit to be poured out? Where else can you see the Spirit's power working in Acts?
- How do the events of the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 fulfill promises given in the Old Testament?
- What does it mean to be devoted to the apostles' teaching? How is that demonstrated in your life or church?
- What does it mean to be devoted to the fellowship? Consider this definition of fellowship: *close association involving mutual interests and sharing*. Can you see examples of what that looked like in the early church?
- What does it mean for the church to be devoted to prayer? How can we grow in this as a church?
- Would you be described as generous and joyous? How is this a work of the Spirit?

The Church: A Spiritual Community (Part 5)

Jerry Cisar — April 2, 2017

Text: Acts

Introduction (Acts 1:1-2)

I. A Community filled with God's Powerful Presence

A. A Powerful Community (1:8)

- i. Luke 1:34-35 The Spirit and Power in the Incarnation
- ii. The Holy Spirit and power came on the disciples and the church was conceived and brought forth!
 - iii. The Spirit's power is clearly evident in leading the church, in transforming the people into the image of Christ, into bringing peace and joy to the church, in disciplining church members, throughout the book of Acts.

B. The Promised Community (Acts 1:15-26)

- i. Why this odd little story about Matthias?
- ii. Matthew 19:28

- iii. The Promise
 - a) Isaiah 49:6
 - b) Isaiah 32:15; 44:3-4

C. The Living Temple (Acts 2)

- i. The Day of Pentecost is the fulfillment of the Father's promise.

- ii. Luke 24:46-53 records the same events as Acts 1:4-14.
 - a) Luke 24:49-53 Where did they gather continually?

 - b) Acts 1:12-14

- iii. The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
 - a) God filled the temple once again when He filled the church with His Spirit!

 - b) Wherever the church is, the temple is, whether that's in Samaria, or among Gentiles as far away as Ephesus.

II. A Devoted Community (Acts 2:41-42)

A. A Community Devoted to Apostolic Teaching.

- i. Content: the apostles' teaching.

- ii. Intention: to do what they said!

- iii. Commitment to a process.

- iv. Pastors and devotion to apostles' teaching (2 Timothy 2:15)

B. A Community Devoted to a Shared Life

- i. They were committed to being involved in each others lives, sharing their possessions.

- ii. They were devoted to eating together. You don't share life with people you aren't willing to eat at the same table with!

- iii. Devotion to a shared life means we will be generous and joyous! (Acts 2:44-47)
 - a) A Generous Community (44-45)

 - b) A Joyous Community (46-47)

- iv. They were devoted to one another by being devoted to a shared life, a shared life involves generosity and bears the fruit of joy.

C. A Community Devoted to Prayer

- i. The Father's house is a house of prayer (Luke 19:46).

- ii. There is a connection between prayer and God's presence.
 - a) Luke 22:41-46

 - b) Acts 12 Peter's deliverance