

Acts of the Apostles- Session 2

Recap

In this study, we continued through Acts 2 and watched what happens after the Holy Spirit falls at Pentecost. The “sound like a violent wind” and “tongues as of fire” were powerful manifestations, but the real miracle was what happened *in people*: Peter, who had denied Jesus three times out of fear, now stands up boldly and preaches Christ crucified and risen. Three thousand people are cut to the heart, repent, are baptized, and immediately begin learning what it means to live as a Spirit-formed community.

The pastoral heart of this message centered on four habits that anchored those first believers and must anchor us: devotion to the apostles’ teaching (Scripture), to fellowship (koinonia—deep, honest spiritual friendship), to the breaking of bread (shared life and communion), and to prayer. These weren’t occasional activities; they were priorities. The Spirit’s power didn’t just produce an emotional moment—it produced a way of life marked by awe, generosity, shared burdens, and daily growth.

Practically, we were invited to ask: *Where am I being “cut to the heart”?* Is God pressing on my prayer life, my relationships, my generosity, or my openness to the Spirit? Instead of rushing past conviction, we were encouraged to “sit in it,” let the Spirit reshape how we think (repentance), and then respond. The early church didn’t stay spectators—they rearranged their housing, finances, schedules, and relationships around Jesus and His people. We’re called to the same Spirit-led devotion today.

Study Guide

Key Points

Personal & Community Prayer Balance

- The early church *devoted themselves ... to prayer* (Acts 2:42).
- Prayer was not only personal but corporate—“*they* devoted themselves,” not just individuals.
- When we pray the Lord’s Prayer (“*our* Father,” “give *us*,” “forgive *us*”), we are praying as a community, not just as isolated believers.

Identity in Christ

- Peter, once fearful and denying Christ, is transformed by the Spirit into a bold witness.
- Our identity is no longer “failure,” “denier,” or “misfit,” but Spirit-filled sons and daughters in the family of God.

- Baptism marked those 3,000 as publicly belonging to Jesus and to His people—our identity is now found in Him and His body.

Worship-First Posture (A → C → T → S)

- The Lord's Prayer reflects a worship-first life:
 - Adoration – “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”
 - Confession – “Forgive us our debts...”
 - Thanksgiving – Implied in “daily bread” received and sins forgiven
 - Supplication – “Give us...lead us...deliver us...”
- The early believers' pattern—praising God, listening to Scripture, responding in repentance, and asking God for boldness and provision—models this same order.

Stillness Before God

- When God's Word “cuts us to the heart,” we're called not to distract ourselves but to pause, ponder, and ask, “What shall I do with this?”
- Mary “pondered these things in her heart”; those on the road to Emmaus felt their hearts “burn within them.”
- Stillness creates space for conviction to turn into repentance, renewed thinking, and Spirit-led obedience.

Spirit-Empowered Community

- True Pentecost power doesn't stop at spiritual experiences—it shows up in sacrificial generosity, shared meals, open homes, and persevering fellowship.
- Their “church growth strategy” wasn't marketing; it was devotion: Scripture, fellowship, shared table, and prayer under the Spirit's power.

Key Scripture

Primary Study Text – Acts 2:14–47 (NIV)