



# The Book of Acts:

## *Holy Spirit Adventures*

### Passage: Acts 15

**The Book of Acts – A call to see the Spirit move again and again in every generation**

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### Introduction

Enjoy the Table Talk video with Pastor Sam [here](#).

We have all had a moment in our lives where we thought we were doing what was right only to find out later that we were misled. How do we assure ourselves that we do not become legalists as Pastor Sam talked about, following a law instead of what the Spirit is doing? Discuss the difference between religion and relationship.

### Unpacking the Sermon

#### 1. We can miss the Spirit

Pastor Sam gave us 6 ways we hinder our spiritual growth. Performance, Perfectionism, Pride, Power, Persistence, and Picking apart (judgementalism). How can we tell when we may be falling into one of these categories? Think about the fruit of the Spirit and what is missing in each instance. Which Fruit of the Spirit do you need to seek more of?

#### 2. Acts 15:8 “God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them”

Earlier in Acts 4:31 -32 “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... All the believers were one in heart and mind.” As we heard in the sermon, differing views on doctrine can divide believers amongst themselves. Peter asserts that it is God’s presence by the Holy Spirit that unifies us. Why do we so easily trust our opinions and miss the Spirit? How can we better seek the Spirit’s leading?

#### 3. Acts 15:19 “we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

The Elders reach an agreement on what to do. James provided a passage from the Old Testament that opened their eyes to what God was doing. This shows us a beautiful example of the members of the body of Christ working together to achieve God’s plan. How can we better model the principle “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.”?

#### **4. Colossians 1:2 “To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse”**

Pastor Sam suggested three identity markers for us from this verse. We are 1. Family, 2. Saints, 3. In Christ. He shared the quote, “While details **describe** you, only Christ **defines** you.” How does finding our identity in Christ allow us the freedom to let go of opinions to seek unity in Christ?

#### **APPLICATION**

**Jesus taught us to seek first the Father’s kingdom and his righteousness.** How can you better seek the presence of God’s Spirit in your life? What spiritual practices can help you strengthen your identity in Christ? What personal opinions do you need to hold less tightly so you can live in fuller unity with other Christians?

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that, as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all; so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Have questions about the sermon? Email us: [groups@sanctuschurch.com](mailto:groups@sanctuschurch.com)