



GOING DEEPER- ACTS 1 (Part 2)

Read Acts 1:12-26

During this waiting period the disciples did two things:

1. Gave their time and energy to prayer and waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit.
2. Organised their leadership appointing replacements through prayer and election.

Prayer powerfully positioned them to receive the promise of God! This was the most important way they could invest their energy.

Replacing leadership was also important. They needed to ensure that whoever replaced Judas was with Jesus from the beginning, for they would be a witness of all that Jesus did!

Judas was with Jesus from the beginning, but he did not end well. On the other hand, Jesus' brothers didn't believe him at the beginning (John 7:5), but they believed him now.

This is encouraging because anyone who does not yet believe might believe in the future! At the same time, it warns us that although we might believe now, it is so easy to fall away, so we need to be vigilant about strengthening and growing in our faith.

Questions:

- How might growing in prayer and in waiting change your life?
- How might you encourage those who are yet to believe?
- How might you encourage those who might be falling away?



GOING DEEPER- ACTS 1 (Part 1)

Read Acts 1:1-11

Jesus taught the disciples that the heart of their future mission was to be witnesses of Jesus to the world starting from Jerusalem, then Judaea, then Samaria and then to the ends of the earth! But at this point they were to wait for the promised **Holy Spirit** who would come upon them and give them power!

This is still applicable to us today for we continue the mandate to be witnesses of Jesus to the world. The need for the empowering of the Holy Spirit is just as great now as it was then.

These verses give insight as to how the Godhead work together:
A- God the Father assigns and appoints times and seasons for the kingdom; and it is He who promises the gift of the Holy Spirit.
B- Jesus the Son teaches and instructs the disciples about the kingdom and eats with them. He ascended and will return in glory.
C- The Holy Spirit is the One who comes with power to enable the disciples for the mission of God to be His witnesses.

Question:

- In what ways have you powerfully experienced Jesus in your life? Who might you be able to share this with?
- Have you experienced the Holy Spirit empowering you? What steps can you take to begin or grow this in your life?

Pray for more of the active power and presence of the Spirit.



DEVOTED

GOING DEEPER- ACTS 2 (Part 1)

Read Acts 2:1-36

There were three signs given with the coming of the Spirit: wind, fire, and tongues. The tongues could actually be understood by passers-by as praising God in their mother tongue!

This was the coming of the Spirit with power that was promised and the purpose of Spirit was given was to enable and empower the disciples to be witnesses of Jesus to the world!

There will be different reactions to the gospel and the Spirit:

- The disciples were filled and began to boldly speak out loud.
- The crowd were amazed and perplexed to hear the testimony of God in their language.
- The mockers assumed they were drunk and intoxicated!

When Peter preached, he quoted three passages of the OT: (Joel 2:28-32, Ps 16:8-11 and Ps 110) and these prophesied Jesus' death, resurrection, reign and Pentecost (the pouring out of the Holy Spirit).

Peter showed boldness, confidence, wisdom and insight. This is very different to the Peter we saw at Jesus trial! It was the empowering of the Holy Spirit in his life.

Questions:

- How have you experienced the Spirit's empowering?
- What are the different responses to Jesus you've witnessed?



DEVOTED

GOING DEEPER- ACTS 2 (Part 2)

Read Acts 2:37-42

Peter revealed two incredible offers in verse 38:

- the forgiveness of their sins and
- to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The condition of this offer was for them to repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus! What an amazing offer!

These are the features that marked the early church in v42-47:

- They were devoted to: Apostles' teaching; Fellowship; Breaking of bread; Prayer; Communal generosity.
- There were signs and wonders
- They were meeting regularly
- They had glad and generous hearts
- They were praising God
- The Lord added to their number those being saved daily

Questions:

- Have you responded to this offer in v38? If so, who can you share this with?
- Which of the features of the early church would you like to see more of in your life?

Take some time to pray for this for your life and the church.