



House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Blinded by Assumptions, Surprised by Grace (Shavuot)"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Acts 10-11; Luke 5

When we read the Book of Acts, it can be tempting to see it as a sudden explosion of power—a dramatic movement of God that fell in an instant. But if we pause and trace the thread from the Gospel of Luke through Acts, we begin to see a different picture emerge. One of the striking features of Luke's writings is his consistent emphasis on the role of the Holy Spirit in every stage of Yeshua's life—from conception to ministry, from His immersion to His proclamation of freedom and healing. Luke highlights that Yeshua was conceived, anointed, and empowered by the Ruach ha-Kodesh—the Holy Spirit.

This same Spirit is not just a force—it's the very presence of God, moving in and through Messiah and then, after His ascension, through His Body. But here's what stands out: the Spirit doesn't just come in fire and tongues; the Spirit comes with *patience*. The Spirit leads, teaches, and slowly peels back our assumptions and religious pride. As we approach Shavuot, we remember not only the outpouring of the Spirit but the surprising ways the Spirit works—gently undoing arrogance, quietly forming us into the image of Messiah, and graciously expanding our understanding beyond our comfort zones – step by step, person by person, teaching us how to walk as Yeshua walked.

1. THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO WALK AS YESHUA WALKED

From the very beginning of Luke's Gospel, we're told that the Holy Spirit overshadowed Miriam (Mary) and brought about the miraculous conception of the Messiah (Luke 1:35). When Yeshua began His ministry, the Spirit came upon Him at His immersion (Luke 3:21-22), led Him into the wilderness for forty days (Luke 4:1), and empowered Him to proclaim Good News, healing, and freedom (Luke 4:14-19). Yeshua was not acting out of divine privilege but walking as a man fully dependent on the Ruach. Luke wants us to see that every healing, every word, every miracle was empowered by the Spirit. **Yeshua's life is the blueprint of Spirit-filled living.**

This same Spirit now rests on us. As Luke begins the book of Acts, he recalls that Yeshua told His disciples to wait—to not rush into ministry, to not move in zeal without empowerment. *"You will receive power when the Ruach ha-Kodesh has come upon you,"* Yeshua says, *"and you will be my witnesses"* (Acts 1:8). Not just in Jerusalem and Judah—those are the easy places. But in Samaria... and to the ends of the earth. The same Spirit that rested on Yeshua now rests on US – His Body, calling us to carry on His mission. And just as Yeshua was led by the Spirit into hard, surprising places, so are we. Will we walk as He walked, empowered by the Spirit, or will we shrink back into what's safe and familiar?

2. THE SPIRIT TEACHES US PATIENTLY, EVEN THROUGH OUR BLIND SPOTS

One of the most beautiful and convicting truths of Acts is how slowly the disciples came to understand the full scope of God's plan. Even after being filled with the Spirit in Acts 2, they didn't yet grasp that the Gospel was for the Gentiles too. They assumed that the "ends of the earth" meant the Jewish diaspora. It wasn't until Acts 10—nearly a decade later—that Peter has a rooftop encounter that shakes him to his core. God sends him to Cornelius' house, where the Spirit falls on Gentiles in the exact same way He had fallen on the Jewish believers. Peter's conclusion is powerful: "I now truly understand that God shows no favoritism" (Acts 10:34).

The Spirit is patient. The disciples were anointed, empowered, and still full of misunderstanding. But the Spirit didn't discard them—He disciplined them. He peeled back their assumptions layer by layer. Just because we've walked with the Lord for a long time doesn't mean we've arrived. The Holy Spirit is still teaching, correcting, surprising us with grace. And here's the encouragement: just because you're only now starting to see what you missed before doesn't mean God hasn't been using you. He works through us in our imperfection. He's not looking for people who have it all figured out. He's looking for people who will listen.

3. THE SPIRIT FILLS US TO TRANSFORM US—NOT TO BOOST OUR SPIRITUAL EGOS

Shavuot (Pentecost) is not just about power—it's about *purpose*. When the Spirit fell in Acts 2, it wasn't a spiritual show. It was a commissioning. They spoke in tongues not for entertainment, but as a sign that God was opening the way for every tribe, language, and nation to receive the Good News. It happened on Shavuot, a feast rooted in harvest, provision, and the giving of the Torah. On the day when Jewish people remembered the Word given to Israel, God poured out His Spirit and wrote His Torah on hearts—from every nation. It was no coincidence. God chose that moment to show that the true harvest was beginning.

But even then, they didn't fully get it. And neither do we. Sometimes we want the gifts of the Spirit more than the fruit. We get enamored with tongues, prophecy, healing—important, yes—but we forget that the Spirit was poured out to form us into the image of Yeshua. To bear witness to Him. To bring Good News to the afflicted, healing to the hurting, freedom to the captives. We must not allow spiritual pride to creep in. The mark of the Spirit's filling is not spiritual showmanship—it's surrendered humility. Will we let the Spirit transform all of us—not just empower our gifting, but change our character?

CONCLUSION:

The story of Luke-Acts is not a story of spiritual superheroes—it's a story of ordinary people being transformed by an extraordinary God. It's the story of the Spirit teaching, guiding, correcting, and empowering people to carry out Yeshua's mission. The same Spirit who filled Yeshua... the same Spirit who fell on the disciples... the same Spirit who shocked Peter and humbled the apostles... is here today. And He is still patient. Still faithful. Still working.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stands out to you about the way Yeshua walked in the Spirit during His ministry?
2. In what ways do you relate to Peter's journey of slowly coming to understand God's plan?
3. How have you seen the Holy Spirit teach or correct you over time?
4. What does it look like in your life to be immersed—not just touched—by the Holy Spirit?
5. What spiritual assumptions or traditions might God be asking you to lay down so you can walk more fully in His calling?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Ruach Elohim, Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on us. Thank You for Your patience. Thank You for not giving up on us when we are slow to understand or quick to assume. Thank You for teaching us gently, for surprising us with grace. We surrender to You today—fully. Have all of us. Fill every part of us. Empower us not to be impressive, but to be faithful. Transform us so that we would walk as Yeshua walked. Help us declare and demonstrate Your love to the afflicted, the captive, the broken, and the lost. May we be a Spirit-filled people who shine with Your glory. In Yeshua's name. Amen.