This Week's Study | Participant Guide

Pentecost Was Only the Beginning • Acts 4:23–31 • Monday–Friday

This Week's Study

The same Holy Spirit who empowered the early church continues to indwell, fill, guide, shape, and equip believers to glorify Jesus Christ. Our focus is not chasing an experience but depending on the Lord in prayer, faithful witness, loving service, and biblical obedience.

Primary passage: Acts 4:23–31

Additional passages for the week: Acts 6:1–7; Acts 7:55–60; Acts 10:34–48; Acts 13:1–4; 1 Corinthians 12–14.

Remembering Sunday

Sunday's message, "The Spirit-Filled Church: Pentecost Was Only the Beginning," centered on Acts 4:23–31. After Peter and John faced threats, the believers gathered to pray. Rather than asking for an easier path, they asked the sovereign Lord for courage to speak His Word. God filled them with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke boldly. The sermon reminded us that Pentecost was a foundational event, yet the Spirit's work continued throughout Acts and continues in Christ's church today. We saw His work in humble service through the selection of wise servants, in Stephen's mercy during suffering, in the gospel reaching Samaritans and Gentiles, and in the Antioch church's missionary calling. The Spirit gives gifts for the good of others, but gifts must always be exercised under Scripture's authority, with love, humility, discernment, and order. Spiritual maturity is more than activity, attendance, or dramatic experiences: it includes godly character, prayer, faithful witness, and care for one another. Because the Spirit indwells every believer, our response is not to manufacture an experience but to depend on Him afresh as we glorify Jesus Christ and share His gospel.

Read and Reflect

Begin by reading Acts 4:23–31 slowly. Read each daily passage in its context before answering. Write what the text says first, then connect it to Sunday's sermon and to your own life. Bring questions to your Thursday group. The same guide can be used personally, as a family, or in the men's and women's groups.

Monday | Read, Observe, Respond

1. A Praying Church Seeks Boldness

Read: Acts 4:23–31

In Acts 4:23–31, what do Peter and John report, how does the church respond, and what do the believers specifically ask God to do? What does their request reveal about their priorities?

Look closely: Look closely: Note what the church says about God in verses 24–28 before making its request in verses 29–30.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon contrasts asking God for popularity with asking Him for faithfulness. It describes corporate prayer as central rather than peripheral.

Supporting Scripture: Acts 1:8

2. Filled Again for an Ongoing Mission

Read: Acts 4:8, 31

Compare Peter in Acts 4:8 with the gathered believers in Acts 4:31. What does Luke say the Holy Spirit did after Pentecost, and what visible result does verse 31 emphasize?

Look closely: Look closely: Identify both the filling and its outcome; do not assume tongues are mentioned in this scene.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon distinguishes the Spirit's indwelling of believers from fresh empowerment for ministry. Pentecost was foundational, not the last time believers depended upon Him.

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:9

Going deeper: Optional reading #1: Acts 1:1–8 and Acts 2:1–4.

Tuesday | Read, Observe, Respond

3. Spirit-Filled Service and Character

Read: Acts 6:1–7

What practical problem arose in the Jerusalem church, and what qualifications were required of those entrusted with meeting the need? What does this teach about ordinary service?

Look closely: Look closely: Compare the need in verses 1–2 with the qualifications in verse 3 and the outcome in verse 7.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon emphasizes that feeding widows mattered enough to require Spirit-filled, wise servants; serving is not a lesser form of ministry.

Supporting Scripture: Galatians 5:22–23

4. Faithful and Forgiving Under Pressure

Read: Acts 7:55–60

How does Stephen respond while suffering, and what does Luke emphasize about his spiritual condition? How does his response challenge our understanding of spiritual power?

Look closely: Look closely: Pay attention to Stephen’s prayers and to the fact that he was not spared suffering.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon describes the Spirit producing Christlike mercy, not merely public speaking or miracles. It compares the Spirit’s sustaining work to a lighthouse in a storm.

Supporting Scripture: Acts 13:52

Wednesday | Read, Observe, Respond

5. The Gospel Crosses Barriers

Read: Acts 10:34–48

According to Peter's message and the events at Cornelius's house, who is welcomed through Jesus Christ, and what evidence shows God received the Gentiles?

Look closely: Look closely: Observe the timing of the Spirit's coming in verses 44–48 and Peter's focus on Jesus in verses 36–43.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon uses a bridge illustration: Jesus' saving work, not cultural similarity, opens the way for people from different backgrounds.

Supporting Scripture: Acts 1:8; Acts 15:7–11

6. Listening and Obeying in Mission

Read: Acts 13:1–4

What was the Antioch church doing when the Holy Spirit directed its mission, and how did the believers respond? What does this show about the relationship between divine guidance and obedience?

Look closely: Look closely: Notice worship, fasting, prayer, laying on of hands, and sending.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon stresses that the Spirit guides the church while Scripture remains our authority; we must test impressions, pray, seek counsel, and obey.

Supporting Scripture: Acts 16:6–10

Going deeper: Optional reading #2: Acts 8:26–40 and Acts 16:6–10.

Thursday | Read, Observe, Respond

7. Gifts for the Good of Others

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

What do verses 4–7 and 11 say about the source, variety, purpose, and distribution of spiritual gifts? How should those truths shape the way we view our own gifts and others' gifts?

Look closely: Look closely: Give special attention to "for the profit of all" in verse 7 and the Spirit's will in verse 11.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon teaches that gifts continue today, are not badges of superiority, and include quiet ministries of helps and mercy as well as more visible manifestations.

Supporting Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10–11

8. Love and Order in a Spirit-Filled Church

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1–7; 14:26–33, 39–40

How do Paul's commands about love, building up the church, discerning contributions, and orderly worship govern the exercise of spiritual gifts?

Look closely: Look closely: Identify the purpose of gathering in 14:26 and the requirements surrounding prophecy and tongues in chapter 14.

Remembering Sunday: The sermon affirms gifts for today without pressure to display a specific gift: Scripture, love, accountability, and order govern their use.

Supporting Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21

Friday | Put the Word into Practice

Review what you wrote this week. Choose one concrete act of obedience: pray with another believer for boldness; share the gospel with someone; care for a practical need; seek prayer in suffering; or make yourself available to serve. Depend on the Holy Spirit rather than trying to produce spiritual results by your own strength.

Personal response: Where have I relied on ability or activity more than on prayer and obedience? What one faithful step will I take this week?

Pray Together

- Ask the Father to fill His people with boldness to speak of Jesus and love for those who do not yet know Him.
- Ask the Spirit to grow Christlike character, humility, unity, and compassion in every area of church life.
- Ask the Lord to guide and equip each believer to serve with biblical wisdom, discernment, and perseverance.

The Gospel Invitation

The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus Christ. Salvation is not earned through a spiritual experience or a ministry gift. Jesus died for our sins and rose again. If you have not trusted Him, turn from sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30–31). Speak with a group leader or pastor if you would like to talk or pray. If you belong to Christ, ask Him to renew your dependence upon the Spirit who already indwells you (Romans 8:9).

Going deeper: Optional reading #3: Galatians 5:16–25 and Ephesians 5:15–21.

Church-life question: How can our congregation make prayer, Scripture, loving service, gospel witness, and biblically ordered spiritual gifts more central to our life together?