

The Acts Journey – 2026/2027

ACTS 1 – “A WHOLE NEW THING!”

UPDATE: FARMSTEAD TEAM UPDATE

- **We are starting a NEW journey THROUGH the Book of Acts with a focus on the Spirit-empowered Life, ch. 1!**
 - It is always exciting to start a new verse-by-verse study of a book in the Bible, but this is a particularly exciting study to undertake...
 - This is not just a study but a JOURNEY.
 - *It is a JOURNEY* through not only this book that promises to help us walk more in the Spirit and also takes us through a majority of the New Testament (I'll explain how momentarily).
 - *This is a JOURNEY* that I pray will see us all transformed for our personal AND corporate good by the time we conclude.
 - *This is a JOURNEY* where we will learn to walk the Spirit-empowered Life rather than the flesh-empowered existence.
 - Today's message is entitled “A Whole New Thing!”
 - First, we will look at the details of this JOURNEY we're about to begin
 - Then we will discuss the amazing Promise of the Holy Spirit...
 - Then we will see Ascension of Jesus...
 - Finally, the replacement of Judas...
- **As usual, we want to keep the whole Bible in mind while we study the parts**
 - **In the same way** that **Matthew** was a bridge between the promises of the OT and the fulfillments in the NT, the book of **ACTS** is a bridge between the time of the life and earthly ministry of Jesus and the establishment of his bride, the church.
 - *It is this book* that tells us how that small group of fearful disciples huddled in an upper room became a church that defied an empire!

- *It is this book* that explains how that church developed and spread from a limited group of Jewish believers to a world-wide movement.
 - *It is this book* that chronicles the lives of **the disciples** after the ascension of Christ and how God worked in their lives by His Spirit.
 - *It is this book* that introduces us to the man who was transformed by the Holy Spirit from the chief persecutor of Christianity to its most fruitful missionary.
 - ... that traces the path of the gospel to the ends of the earth!
- **As we journey through it**, we are also going to look at an **OVERVIEW** of some other Biblical passages that are related in context to this narrative...
 - **The Book of Acts** (and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit) has had a profound impact on the history of **Calvary Chapel** as well.
 - So, as we embark on this journey, we are also going to talk about the history of OUR church and the impact that the ministry of the Holy Spirit has had on our direction.
 - *Screensaver Entertainment* made a documentary called "**What God Hath Wrought**" about the amazing history of our church. Starting next week, we will watch a short clip of this documentary weekly before we get into our study.
 - Many of you know that we are NOT a denomination but an affiliation of like-minded churches that began during the Jesus Revolution which our founder **Pastor Chuck Smith** had a major role.
 - When I first attended Calvary Chapel down in San Diego while in the USMC, I had never heard of CC and knew nothing about it. However, the church showed the older version of this documentary withing my first few weeks and it was very helpful. Then I read this book "Harvest"

and learned lots more. I want to give you all the same opportunity to know what our history is and appreciate our heritage.

Introduction to The JOURNEY

- **This is Volume II of a two-volume set that go together. The author is Luke, whom we will meet on this journey around 16:10...**
 - **We will see** that Luke was **a physician** who came to believe in Jesus and volunteered to become **the Apostle Paul's personal doctor** and thus travelled extensively with him, writing this book as a result.
 - **Volume I** was the Gospel that bears his name.
 - While the gospel of **Matthew** that we just studied through was written by **a Jewish man** to **a Jewish audience** about **the KINGSHIP of the Messiah** and focused primarily on the **words that he spoke...**
 - **Luke** was **a Gentile** writing to a **non-Jewish audience** a gospel about **the HUMANITY of the Messiah** and focused primarily on **the actions that he accomplished.**
 - As a physician, he pointed out how the humanity of Jesus worked in the power of the Holy Spirit to complete his divine mission.
 - It reveals how much we NEED the empowering of God's Spirit to be able to do ANYTHING of significant eternal value.
 - **That's why this Book of Acts** is such a perfect sequel. While his gospel showed how **JESUS** worked in the power of the Spirit, this book shows how **HIS PEOPLE** can do the same (and did!)... **the SPIRIT-EMPOWERED LIFE!**
 - **Luke** picked up in VOL II right where left off in VOL I.

- Jesus had been crucified, buried, and resurrected and had appeared to many of them.
 - What did he tell them? He reminded them that it all happened exactly as it was supposed to happen to bring about the salvation of God for all people! **LK 24:44-46**).
 - He had told them previously that "...**forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem...**" (**LK 24:47**) just like we see here in **Acts 1**.
 - He also told them, "**I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**" (**Luke 24:49**) which is also exactly what we see here in **Acts 1**!
- **That point also reveals** the unfortunate title that eventually latched on to Volume II... "*The Acts of the Apostles*"
- Anyone who reads Luke's account will quickly gather that it was NOT the "*Acts of the Apostles*" at all , but the **ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**
 - He was the MAIN character throughout and the apostles would agree.
 - It is the HOLY SPIRIT who provided the ENERGY to take the gospel from the small gathering in the Upper Room to the ends of the earth as we will see in **Vs 8**.
- AS a matter of fact, the entire VOL II is modeled after this verse...
- Ministry in **Jerusalem** – **ACTS 1-7**
 - Ministry in **Judea & Samaria** – **ACTS 8-12**
 - Ministry to **the Ends of the Earth** – **ACTS 13-28**
 - Subdivided from there into Paul's **4 Missionary Journeys**: **First** (**13:1—15:35**), **Second** (**15:36—18:22**), **Third** (**18:23—21:16**), and **Fourth** to Rome (**21:17—28:31**).

[A DETAILED OUTLINE OF THIS IS INCLUDED IN THE NOTES]

Promise of the Holy Spirit – 1:1-5

1:1-3 1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

➤ LUKE showed us in **Vs 1** to whom he wrote this second volume... *Theophilus*.

- **Who was this man?** We are not told specifically.
 - Some suggest that this was only a code name for a group of believers whom Luke did not want to reveal ("**Lover of God**"). This seems unlikely, though possible.
 - Luke became the personal physician of the Apostle Paul and thus it may be that this man was his previous master (in those days doctors were not wealthy as today but rather slaves of wealthy people).
 - What do I believe? I think that when Theophilus was born his mother said, "That's the awfulest baby I've ever seen... and that is what he's been called ever since... J/K.
- **There is another possibility** which stems from a seemingly reliable source in the 2nd Century that suggests Theophilus was a wealthy, influential man who lived in Antioch (where a major church later developed).
 - It is said that he dedicated his magnificent palace to the preaching of the Gospel (later called a Basilica)
 - We will see in **16:10** that Luke joined Paul's travels in this general area, lending credence to this tradition.

- In the first century, often a rich benefactor would finance a work of art or history. Theophilus may've sponsored Luke's mission and writings. If so, what a contribution! In heaven, this "Lover of God" will be credited as having funded a large portion of the NT! Wow.
- I wonder what great work God wants US to partner with that will be even greater than we could imagine? Let's be "cheerful givers" of the Work of God in OUR community!

- **Luke referred to his Gospel in saying in Vs 1-2, that he had "dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up..."**
- **Luke basically told Theophilus** that Volume I was the beginning and now Volume II was the sequel.
 - Everyone loves a good sequel. That's why movies like Rocky and the Lord of the Rings can make so many movies and still sell large amounts of tickets.
 - This, however, was the greatest sequel of all time; it was the working out of all that Jesus **BEGAN** to do and teach; that was the beginning and this was the marvelous *Spirit-filled continuation*. Praise the Lord!
 - Jesus didn't start something he had no intentions of completing. We will see later how Paul wrote to the Philippians the now well-known verse with this theme, "**He who started the work in you will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.**" PHIL 1:6 nlt
 - **That is our prayer** as we make this JOURNEY through the **Book of Acts** that God will continue to work in OUR hearts and lives by His Holy Spirit!
 - We are a part of this sequel. When we get to the end of the book it is a little disappointing because it's NOT and ending at all!

- The ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT have continued through 20 centuries of his people, all over the globe, and we are a part of it right here at Calvary Creekside!
- "Oh Lord, we come to worship you; we're asking You, to pour your Spirit out; let our hearts be open to Your Presence, Lord, in this place today; Oh Lord, we come to worship you."

➤ **As we recently completed our study of Matthew's Gospel, we covered in detail the events of Jesus' resurrection as Luke reviewed here in Vs 2-3.**

- **Luke called those things "many proofs"** which literally means "**undeniable evidence**"
 - We talked previously about **Sir William Ramsay** who set out to disprove the Bible by following the writings of Luke archeologically. He was so overwhelmed by the EVIDENCE that he became a believer and concluded that "*Luke, the historian did not make one historical mistake.*" He then spent the rest of his life DEFENDING the Bible.
 - The Holy Spirit knew the faith of future generations of believers would hinge on the testimony of the first eyewitnesses. Thus, He made certain the evidence of His resurrection was undeniable and irrefutable.
 - He didn't want any of them to doubt, and NONE EVER did to the day of their deaths (another phenomenal evidence in itself!)

1:4-5 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

➤ **This is what Jesus had predicted in those verses we read from Luke's Volume I earlier (LK 24:49) and that is what he reiterated here in VS 4.**

- **Jesus had predicted** the coming of His Holy Spirit... **John** also recorded:
 - "I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper to be with you forever... even the spirit of truth... when the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth..." John 14:16-17, 16:13
 - "... it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you..." John 16:7
 - You see, Jesus was limited to ONE physical location in his human form but His Spirit was OMNIPRESENT. Thus, in going UP and then sending his Spirit DOWN, he was doing us a great favor!
 - He needed to **ASCEND**, so that His Spirit could **DESCEND** and He had told them about this beforehand.
- **As we move along** in this JOURNEY, our theme and focus is "**THE SPIRIT-EMPOWERED LIFE**."
 - It is TRULY our hope that as we make this JOURNEY together, God will TRANSFORM US by the power of the same Holy Spirit just as he did the folks we will be studying about.
 - We will talk in great detail about the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life... How He comes along side us to DRAW us to salvation and then dwells within us at salvation and finally how He COMES UPON us or "baptizes" us as he predicted here in Vs 5.
- **The big question is**... where are YOU at in your JOURNEY right now and are you OPEN to the work of the Spirit in your life moving fwd?
 - Let's DISCOVER the things the Lord wants to do together!
 - AS WE JOURNEY, I truly believe that Lord wants to work in our community, in our church, in our families, in our lives personally.

- Let's ask Him to baptize us "with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." That He would come upon US with His Power! Amen.

The Ascension of Jesus – 1:6-11

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- Here, even after the resurrection, the disciples were still focused on their Kingdom NOW theology asking, "will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel" in Vs 6...
 - They wanted to get to the Kingdom-making business of the future, but had no Spiritual power for the present...
 - They still did NOT understand that Jesus needed to build his SPIRITUAL Kingdom on the hearts of men BEFORE the physical one.
 - He had already told them and said again here that they needed to WAIT for the empowerment that was to come.
 - He said in Vs 8, "... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."
 - The Greek word is "dunamis" which is where we get dynamite from.
 - That dynamite power would be the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit at PENTECOST as we will see in detail in Ch. 2!

- **Once that event occurred**, these same foot-in-the-mouth disciples who were often focused on the wrong thing, transformed into powerful orators, disciplers and missionaries for Jesus.
 - As we study through this book (and the NT), we will see them be His **"witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"** (Vs 8) in the Spirit's power.
 - Jesus selected his CHOSEN disciples to spread this gospel to the entire world using HIS dynamite power.
- This is the **KEY FOCUS** for us as we JOURNEY through this book.
 - We are asking the LORD to help us to live the Spirit-empowered life rather than a flesh-dominated one.
 - Consider this amazing passage from **Galatians 5**:

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions... 19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear... 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. **16-17,19,22-25**

- **This is one of the main things I believe the Lord has for us to discover as a group and as individuals...** *the ability to win this war between the flesh and the*

Spirit by learning how to CRUCIFY the flesh, how to PUT ON the Lord Jesus Christ so that we can WALK in the Spirit on a more regular basis!

- The 1996 blockbuster movie "Twister" was about a group of tornado chasers as most of you know. One reason for the film's great success was its intense special effects. Shortly after its release, the movie was shown at a drive-in theater near Kansas City. One night during the movie, a real-life twister swept through the theater ripping apart the screen and destroying the concession area. The special effects became quite realistic at that showing!
 - Over the next year, as we study the **Book of Acts**, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the transformational growth of the early church, would YOU join me in praying for our fellowship?
 - I am praying that God will **BRING TO LIFE** what we see on the screen!
 - Please pray with me that God will move as he did in those early days, **empowering us by His Spirit** [dove & fire slide] and doing amazing things in and through us!
 - I don't think the sequel to TWISTER was as good as the original, but let's ask God to make the SEQUEL we're living at least as good as the original, if not better!
- **Let's also ask him to help us** to become His witnesses in OUR Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria, and the Ends of the earth!
 - **OUR JERUSALEM** – Whatever city you live in... be a witness! Take a more active role in the salvation of your friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and family! **PRAY. INVITE. SERVE.** 1 person!

- **OUR JUDEA & SAMARIA** – Whatcom County, WA State, The U.S.
These places need Jesus like never before. Consider yourself a missionary in the foreign land of WA state!
- **OUR ENDS OF THE EARTH** – Same as theirs, only bigger! We cannot do it all, but what can we do? Canada. Japan. Sri Lanka. YWAM.
- The world is our canvas... what picture does God want to paint?

1:9-11 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- Jesus had previously told them in **JOHN 16:7** “... it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”
 - **For Jesus it was a reunion** with the Father, but for the Disciples, it seemed like a loss.
 - He had just been arrested in the night, flogged, crucified, dead and buried only to surprise them all by coming back to life!
 - Now, he was leaving them again. They must’ve been quite confused and scared and sad and happy at the same time.
 - **While they were standing there** gawking into heaven with amazement but lots of lingering questions, two angels appeared and gave them an answer, to at least one of their questions, no doubt...
 - The angels said, “**This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**” (VS 11)

- This was the encouragement they needed as they waited for the Holy Spirit to give them understanding and patience.
 - The angels promised emphatically that they would see him again! This was what they needed to hear while in the waiting time.
 - This also meant that there was work to do before he comes back!
 - They needed to be witnesses of the Good News of His gospel which needed to be spread worldwide!
- **Their FIRST task**, however, was absolutely the most difficult... **WAITING**.
 - They had to wait for the empowerment of His Spirit.
 - Then they had to wait for his return.
 - You know what it's like to wait. The avg person spends about 5 years of their life waiting in lines! That's terrible, and difficult.
 - When waiting on God to answer or to provide or to lead us, it ALWAYS has purpose.

The Replacements – 1:12-26

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. 14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- So **"they returned to Jerusalem"** (vs 12) **where they waited, according to the instructions of Jesus.**
 - They went back to the famous **Upper Room**... (vs 13)

- This was most likely the home of **John Mark** who would later travel with Paul and write the gospel that bears his name, strongly leaning on Peter's experience.
- It was also very likely the place where Jesus had observed the Passover with the disciples which became his last supper w/them.
- Here they were gathered all of them except JUDAS whose absence not doubt left a difficult scar.

I've been in an **upper room** in Jerusalem that COULD be the same one, and it is an amazing experience... here is a pic.

- **As they were waiting in that room**, they were initially "**devoting themselves to prayer**" (vs 14) as they were supposed to do, but not for long...

1:15-20 15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, 16 "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 17 For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong [or swelling up] he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; And "'Let another take his office.'

- **As they waited together for the power of the Spirit for ministry, they got antsy, and couldn't wait any longer...**

- The number of folks grew to be 120 people and **Peter, as the defacto leader, stood and spoke** into the silence...
 - First, he said that Judas' betrayal was predicted in scripture.

- He was right. Had **Judas** NOT chosen to betray Jesus, we would not be able to receive forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation that his death brought!
- Judas **had to be** “**numbered among** [them]” and “**share in this ministry**” (vs 17) or he would not have been able to secretly betray **Jesus** as he predicted, “**The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!**” (MT 16:24)
- **Vs 18** recalls what happened to Judas after his betrayal...
 - He first “**acquired a field**” by giving the silver back to the priests who in turn bought the “**potter’s field.**” [a place for broken pottery]
 - Then he found himself “**falling headlong**[or swelling up]” and he “**burst open**” and “**his bowels gushed out**”
 - **Matthew** recorded that he hung himself (MT 27:5) but **Luke** wrote that he fell and burst open. **Which is it?**
 - If you put the two accounts together, it seems like the simplest solution is that Judas hung himself in a tree (which many saw). Then, with no one to pull him down, eventually the branch broke and his swollen body hit the rocks bursting open (which others saw and reported to Luke as witnesses).
 - A terrible end for a terrible person. No wonder Jesus said, “**It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.**” (MT 26:24).
- **According to Luke**, the demise of Judas in the potter’s field became “**known to all**” and the locals began to call it the “**Field of Blood**”
 - To make his point, Peter quoted two very relevant Psalms of David, **69:25** and **109:8** applying them to Judas.

- **"May his camp become desolate" and "Let another take his office"**

1:21-26 21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." 23 And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

➤ **In Vs 21-22, Peter decided that there would be two requirements:** *First, the man who would replace Judas must have been with us all the way. Second, He must be an eyewitness of the resurrection!*

- **We don't know where Peter** got these two points from, but they seem like pretty legit prerequisites to replace Judas.
 - *Whoever it would be* would have to have known the final prophet of the OT, the great **John the Baptist**, or at least his ministry of that crucial time before Jesus revealed himself.
 - *Whoever it would be* would also need to have been with them all the 3 years of ministry as Jesus taught, preached, healed and blessed.
 - *Whoever it would be* would have to have been there with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem to the ascension at the Mt of Olives.

➤ **Peter was right about the need to replace Judas, but it is my humble opinion that his impulsive nature caused him to jump the gun and choose the wrong replacement...**

- **Open mouth**, Insert foot.
 - I say this because we've seen that their primary task at this point was to **WAIT** for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
 - They had NOT received that empowerment at this point.

- **DL Moody** said, "Trying to understand the Bible without the Holy Spirit is like trying to read a sundial by moonlight."
- They were flying blind in this endeavor!
- **Two mistakes** I see...
 - **ONE** – "**which one of these two you have chosen**" (vs 24)
 - We don't give God two choices. He may have something TOTALLY different in mind.
 - I personally believe that there was a young Pharisee in Jerusalem that day, a few years younger than Jesus, who was being DRAWN by the Holy Spirit to become that 12th apostle... His name was **Saul**. Later known as Paul. 😊
 - **TWO** – "**they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias**" (26)
 - **Casting lots** was for those who did NOT have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to guide them into truth.
 - When the Spirit comes down, there will be NO MORE casting lots to find truth.
 - When we see those foundations named after the apostles (**REV 21:14**), I believe the 12th will be **Paul**, not Matthias (he is never mentioned again, no disrespect, though).
- **One thing is absolutely sure on this JOURNEY...**
 - **God wants to stop men** from doing ministry in the power of their own flesh and help them to do it with the empowerment of His Holy Spirit...
 - What foot-in-the-mouth Peter did here was run out of patience, resort to what he knew apart from the Spirit, and lead that group of 120 believers into making a critical mistake.
 - Let **US** never repeat this process but ALWAYS trust in God!

- There is no substitute for the kind of spiritual power that HE gives.
- It's been said, "When we rely on organization, we get what organization can do. When we rely upon education, we get what education can do. When we rely on eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But when we rely on the Holy Spirit, we get what ONLY **God** can do!"
- One year **the Tournament of Roses Parade** in Pasadena, California was delayed when a beautiful float came to a halt in the middle of the parade route. The float had run completely out of fuel. The whole parade was put on hold while someone ran to get them a can of gas. What is ridiculous about it is that the float that had no gas was sponsored by **the Standard Oil Company**. Here was a company with vast oil reserves, and yet a float that ran out of gas.
 - This is unfortunately the situation with many believers today.
 - They have every spiritual blessing in the Heavens available in Christ Jesus (**EPH 1**) but they run out of spiritual gas.
 - Please join me in praying and seeking the LORD to avoid such a fate.
 - Pray that He will guide us to life and DO MINISTRY in the **dynamite power of HIS Holy Spirit!**

In conclusion...

Conclusion

- **What about YOU? Are YOU walking this JOURNEY in the power of your own flesh or relying on the power of God's Holy Spirit?**
- **Jesus said that when you need his Spirit, all you gotta do is ASK!**

➤ **Before you can be filled with the Power of God's Holy Spirit, you have to surrender to God for salvation.**

- You can do that today and I'll tell you how!
- I have some REALLY good news for you and I will share it quickly while I have your attention... in just 4 amazing words!
- **People** have *a problem...* we are all sinful and sin separates us from God, creating an impassable rift between us and Him... [ROM 3:23 / ISA 59:2]
- That put's **God** in *a difficult situation...* God is a Loving Father and doesn't want to punish us, but he is also a Righteous Judge who must punish all sin... that's a serious dilemma... [JER 31:3 / 1 JN 4:7-8 / EXO 34:7]
- **JESUS** is *the solution...* God sent JESUS to die on the cross to close that rift between us by paying the penalty for our sin (*sacrifice*) [JN 3:16]
God also raised JESUS from the grave providing victory over sin and death, giving us Eternal Life [ROM 1:3-4] CELL PHONE ILL.
- **Faith** is *the response...* we can respond by placing our faith in what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf and receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It's like lifting empty hands to receive the **free gift**. [ACTS 16:31 / ROM 6:23]
- The Bible says that if you "*confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*"
- Would YOU like to receive this gift, the FORGIVENESS of sins and eternal life from Jesus Christ right now?
 - Admit... Believe... Choose, Confess, Commit.
 - "Prayer of Faith" and **John 6:47**

Please talk with us or even contact us at info@calvarycreekside.com because we would LOVE to help you grow in the faith!