

The
ACTS
of the Apostles



THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN THE WORLD **ACTS 1:8**

- The Holy Spirit in and “*upon*” you provides radical, powerful, personal transformation for the work God has called us to in this world.
- Are you up to the task of radically transformed lives as Christ’s disciples?
- Para (alongside), En (in), and Epi experience (the flood of the Epi upon) in **VERSE 8**.
- This work was accomplished through the person and power of the torrents of living water of the Holy Spirit.



THE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ACTS 1:8

1. **CHAPTERS 1-7** describe the Gospel being preached in Jerusalem. *OUCH* . . . Live it first at home, with no hypocrisy.
2. **CHAPTER 8** shows believers, under threat of persecution, taking the good news of Jesus Christ to Judea and Samaria—living the Gospel in daily public life.
3. **CHAPTER 9** records the monumental conversion of Saul of Tarsus to become the great Apostle Paul.
4. **CHAPTERS 13-19** are the record of the Gospel initially going out to the ends of the inhabited world.

PENTECOST POWER FOR ALL WHO ASK!

Jesus had the Helper Himself for His body of flesh, and also promised the coming of the Spirit for us.

The Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus: **MATT. 3:16; JOHN 14:16-18, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15**

How much more do you think we need the Holy Spirit?

- God's people experienced repeated fillings of the Spirit, or the baptism, as they faced new opportunities and obstacles. **ACTS 2:4, 4:8, 9:17, 13:9**
- Ordinary people were able to do extraordinary things because the Spirit of God was at work in their lives.

WHAT IS THIS SPIRIT STUFF?

Is it even reasonable to believe in a spiritual world, a dimension outside of our own, that is invisible to the naked eye? The difference between body, soul and spirit— isn't it all just mental?

- Evolution says: *“the brain is nothing more than a naturalistic computer made of meat.”*
—Dr. Marvin Minsky, Ph.D., M.I.T.
- **But does that explain the data and reality of the human experience?**

SO WHAT'S UP WITH SOUL OR SPIRIT?

Many, if not most, people use the terms “SOUL” and “SPIRIT” interchangeably, but the two words do have distinctly different meanings in the Bible.

SOUL: *“and man became a living SOUL.”* **GEN. 2:7**

The term translated “soul” is *nephesh*, which is best translated *“living being or soul.”*

- In Hebrew, it is equated with the breath of life, the essence that makes man alive.
- The soul is not separate from the body; it is the human’s innermost being. It is our consciousness of self.

SPIRIT: *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a living soul.”* **GEN. 2:7**

*“And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.”* **GEN. 1:2**

- The Ruach Elohim—Spirit of God—Breath of Life
- The word “*spirit*” in Hebrew is ruach, which is similar to, but very distinct from, the soul—the *nephesh*. *The animals received the soul/the nephesh, but not the Spirit of God/the Ruach Elohim.*

ONLY MAN HAS THE SPIRIT

Only man was given the express image of God at Creation.

“So God created man in His own image;” **GEN. 1:27**

THE SPIRIT IS HOW WE CONNECT TO GOD.

“The Spirit Itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” **ROMANS 8:16**

We not only have a spirit, but as the “*children of God*,” God’s Holy Spirit, who now indwells us, leads us and guides us through our human spirit—which God uniquely gave only to mankind.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONNECTS WITH US THERE.

THE THREE PARTS

1. God gave us a **BODY** to interact and be conscious of the world and others around us.
2. He gave us a **SOUL/MIND** that we might be conscious of ourselves, our own thoughts, emotions and desires.
3. He gave us a **SPIRIT** so we could communicate and fellowship with God and be conscious of His will.
4. The book of Acts is a record of the Holy Spirit—at work in our world—empowering the spirits of believers in His Church to do great and mighty things!