

DAILY DEVOTIONS:

Week of June 14 – June 19, 2021

ACTS 1

MONDAY: Read Acts 1

Ask Spirit to help you imagine what it was like to implement Jesus' instructions concerning the kingdom of God!
What scenes are most impactful to you? How do you feel as Jesus moves from a physical to a spiritual presence?

TUESDAY: Read Acts 1:1-5 & John 16:5-16

Thank the Father for the ways the Holy Spirit is conforming your life to reflect Jesus more & more accurately
How do the apostles experience Jesus physically before He is taken up finally? How do they experience Him spiritually before and after that day? Why is the promised Holy Spirit necessary for believers? What is His role?

WEDNESDAY: Read Acts 1:6-11

Meditate with the Spirit concerning God's kingdom on earth & how it affects your daily priorities & choices
What event do you think prompted the apostles' interest in the restoration of the kingdom of Israel? How does Jesus subtly address their interest in the wrong, physical kingdom (v8)? What are we to be doing between the events of v11?

THURSDAY: Read Acts 1:12-14

Think about having become a new creature in Christ: how has this adjusted your purpose & patterns in living?
What do you think is the most critical information presented in these verses and why? How many apostles are named? What were they, along with a few others, doing together? Define what prayer has become for you

FRIDAY: Read Acts 1:15-20 & Psalm 109:6-15

Thank God for the remarkable gift of faith that you've received from Spirit to persuade you to believe in Jesus
How does the statement in v17 connect with the author of Hebrews' concern for those "with" but not "of" the church? Why does Judas not qualify as an apostle in the truest sense? What had Judas not received from God?

SATURDAY: Read Acts 1:21-26 & 1Corinthians 15:3-9

Pray that Spirit will give you the unction to testify to someone today about Jesus and His eternal kingdom!
How does Peter define "an apostle"? Why did Peter "cast lots" (OT method) to determine God's will rather than ask the Holy Spirit? *(I don't think you'll like this question - not sure i do! It's a very dogmatic approach to distinguishing between the Trinity Beings, but i want us to begin to realize & turn to the most marvelous Source we have in the Holy Spirit on hand!) Your Thoughts!*

(Use your own Bible & this New American Standard Translation for comparison & better understanding)

Acts 1:1-26 (NLT)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1) In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2) until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. 3) During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. 4) Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5) John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

The Ascension of Jesus

6) So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” 7) He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9) After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10) As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11) “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

Matthias Replaces Judas

12) Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. 13) When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). 14) They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

15) During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them.

16) “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. 17) Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.” 18) (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. 19) The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name *Akeldama*, which means “Field of Blood.”)

20) Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’

21) “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—22) from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.” 23) So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. 24) Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen 25) as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” 26) Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

John 16:5-16 (NLT)

5) “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6) Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. 7) But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8) And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9) The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10) Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11) Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. 12) “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. 13) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14) He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15) All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’ 16) “In a little while you won’t see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again.”