



# Acts: God in Action through Us

## Introduction

*“Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible.”* Discuss.

Jesus had appointed the apostles as his authoritative witnesses and had promised them the reminding and teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Day of Pentecost (50 days after the death of Jesus) was the inauguration of the new era of the Spirit-- a unique and unrepeatable historical event, the ‘birth day’ of the church.

### Read Acts 2:1-41

1. Acts 2:1-13 record the visible event of Pentecost-- a strange day, indeed. What seems important among the details recorded here and why?

When Luke spoke of the international nature of the crowd, he was speaking from his own horizon-- the Greco-Roman world situated around the Mediterranean Basin, every nation in which there were Jews or converts to Judaism. This is a kind of reunification of all Israel gathered from the ends of the earth. Notice that the crowd finds that it is the universal ‘hearing’ of God’s word that is remarkable rather than the speaking of the apostles (v8). Hence, this event refers to reversal of the curse of Babel (Gen 11:1-9) in the Kingdom of God.

2. Acts 2:14-36 records Peter’s explanation of the day of Pentecost. What do you think are the key parts of Peter’s speech?

3. Peter affirms that his ‘good news’ announcement stands entirely upon the Old Testament expectation of a ‘Messiah’. Which particular parts of Jesus’ life and ministry does Peter highlight in this way?

In verse 17 Peter explains that the Spirit’s coming signals that ‘The Last Days’ have arrived. In other words, the clock is now running and God’s judgment is coming. The ‘great and glorious Day of the Lord’ is approaching when God will punish sin and bring vindication for his people who call upon his name for salvation. The bad news for the Jews is that the Lord they are meant to be calling upon is actually the man they killed a couple of months back.

4. How does Peter urge the crowd to respond to the news that God has made Jesus, *whom they crucified*, both Lord and Christ? Using ‘non-religious’ words, describe how you have responded to this news?

5. When we became Christians, we too received the Holy Spirit. In what ways are we different to the Apostles and in what ways are we very similar? In what ways are we different to the crowd in Acts 2 and in what ways are we similar?

6. What changes for you as a result of Pentecost? Pray together in response to these changes.