

The Acts of the Apostles- Chapter 1 Study Questions

1. **Acts 1:5** What does the expression “baptized in the Holy Spirit” mean to you?

If you were to compare baptism in water with taking a bath in a tub, what might “taking a bath in the Holy Spirit” suggest that Jesus is promising you?

Joel 2:28-29 (NRSV) Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

2. **Acts 1:6** How are the political aspirations of Judaism given a spiritual fulfillment in Acts?

How does Acts confirm the hopes of the disciples about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel?

Footnote p. 207, **1:6 Restore the kingdom**

CCC 672 Before his Ascension Christ affirmed that the hour had not yet come for the glorious establishment of the messianic kingdom awaited by Israel which, according to the prophets, was to bring all men the definitive order of justice, love and peace. According to the Lord, the present time is the time of the Spirit and of witness, but also a time still marked by "distress" and the trial of evil which does not spare the Church and ushers in the struggles of the last days. It is a time of waiting and watching.

3. **Acts 1:8** To what are the disciples to be witnesses?

What is the Greek origin of the word “witness”?

Footnote p. 207, **1:8 Power ... Spirit ... come upon**

CCC 995 To be a witness to Christ is to be a "witness to his Resurrection," to "[have eaten and drunk] with him after he rose from the dead." Encounters with the risen Christ characterize the Christian hope of resurrection. We shall rise like Christ, with him, and through him.

4. **Acts 1:8** Why do you think that being a witness to Jesus’ death and Resurrection would require power from the Holy Spirit?

What does “being [Jesus’] witness” mean to you, *personally*?

Luke 1:35 (p. 105)

5. **Acts 1:10** What is the implied link between the two men whom the apostles see when Jesus ascends into heaven and the figures of Moses and Elijah?

Matthew 17:1-3 (p. 37) and **Footnote 17:3 Moses and Elijah**

6. **Acts 1:12–13** Why do you think the disciples chose the upper room to return to after the Ascension?

If you have ever returned to a location that was important to you, why did you do it?

7. **Acts 1:14** Recall a time when you “devoted yourself to prayer” for any purpose.
What was the purpose and what was the result?

What part (if any) does Mary play in your prayer, and why (or why not)?

Footnote p. 208, 1:14 Prayer

CCC 2623 On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of the Promise was poured out on the disciples, gathered "together in one place." While awaiting the Spirit, "all these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer." The Spirit who teaches the Church and recalls for her everything that Jesus said was also to form her in the life of prayer.

8. **Acts 1:20** Why does Peter quote from Psalms 69 and 109?

To what does the term “office” refer?

Footnote p. 208, 1:20 The book of Psalms