

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 6 March 2016.....	Acts 1	Entrusted
2) 13 March	Acts 2	Empowered and Unified
3) 20 March	Acts 3	Benevolent
4) 27 March	Luke 24	Resurrected!
5) 3 April	Acts 4	Courageous
6) 10 April	Acts 5	Integrity & Faithful
7) 17 April	Acts 6	Selfless
8) 24 April	Acts 7	Forgiving
9) 1 May	Acts 8	Obedient
10) 8 May	Acts 9	Converted & Bold
11) 15 May	Acts 10	Accepting
12) 22 May	Acts 11	Engaging
13) 29 May	Acts 12	Extraordinary

INTRODUCTION

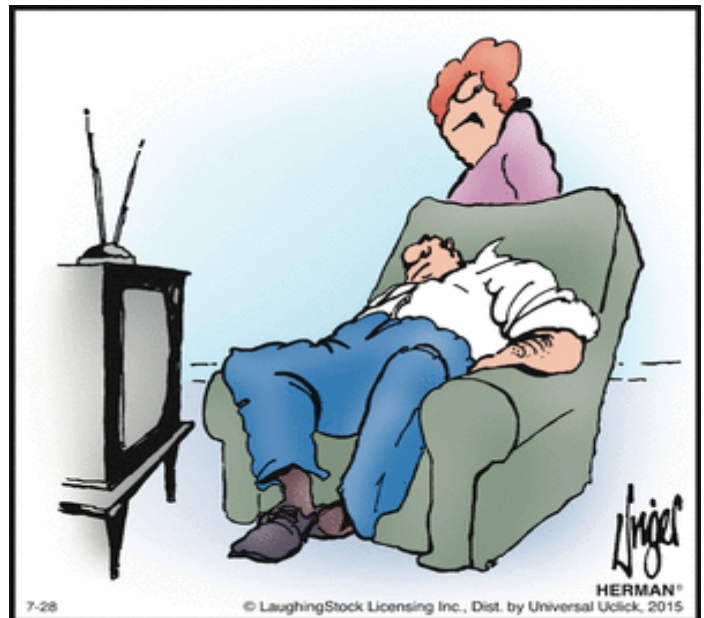
- The Apostles are empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness with many signs and wonders, "and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."
- The 47 verses in Chapter 2 are chocked full of doctrinal concepts, though none of the doctrines are elaborated on. We must consider the whole counsel of God to determine sound doctrine.
- If we were new to the Christian faith and Acts was the 1st book we read, we could walk away with some doctrinal misconceptions

DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS FROM ACTS 2

1. Does the Holy Spirit still light on people today as He did here?
2. Do we still have Apostles today?
3. Are tongues still for us today?
4. Can we still work "many wonders and signs" today as Jesus and His Apostles did?
5. Are the miraculous signs and wonders we might see, experience, and/or hear about today truly of God?
6. Does God's "foreknowledge" and "predetermined plan" dictate our actions like pieces on a chess board?
7. Do we need to be baptized to be saved?
8. What is meant by "the gift of the Holy Spirit"?

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rare incidents today of someone speaking in an intelligible language unlearned by the speaker are unproven, whereas Biblical Tongues were not rare events • The gift of tongues is addressed only in Mark, Acts and 1Corinthians. All total, 3 books, 7 chapters, 30 verses – of which 17 verses (~60%) are used to correct its misuse • Question. Why is it you can buy a book or DVD to learn how to speak in tongues, but there are no books or DVDs to learn how to interpret tongues? • Modern tongues are at best, psychologically-produced and learned, or at worst, of demonic origin
2:14-21	<p>Gutsy Peter Earned His Name "The Rock"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter quotes from Joel 2:28-32, a passage of partial or dual fulfilment for the end times & the Day of the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We can logically deduce that verses 17-18 were fulfilled during the 1st Century ♦ Since Scripture doesn't record any "wonders in the sky", "signs on the earth", to include blood, fire, & smoke, except in Revelations, we can logically deduce that verses 19-20 refer to the Tribulation period ♦ v21. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" would therefore be applicable throughout man's history
How Do We Prepare for the Day of the Lord?	<p>The Book of Jude provides the following advice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build yourself up – each believer should become a self-feeding Christian – and get off the milk 2. Pray in the Holy Spirit – each believer should know the will of God and pray within His will 3. Keep yourselves in the love of God – each believer should strive to be holy as God is holy, seek forgiveness of sins, and continue serving 4. Waiting anxiously for our eternal reward – each believer is to have a heavenly focus 5. Have mercy on doubters – each believer should help look after the welfare of others, and come alongside those who are struggling 6. Save Others from the Fire – each believer should be willing to take bold steps to help save the lost 7. Show Mercy with Fear – each believer must recognize their own weaknesses & propensity to fall

Passage	Comments
Acts 2:1-13	<p>The Day of Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-3. Shock-&-Awe. Mighty noise, violent wind, and tongues of fire filled the house – Can this still happen? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Short answer – NO! This was a one of a kind event to mark a new movement – the birth of God's church ♦ Have there been reports of similar incidences? YES! They are, at best, unconfirmed events or, at worst, lying wonders from Satan. Example, see following link: http://settingcaptivesfree.me/tag/azusa-street-revival/ • vv4-11. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (known languages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This passage showed tongues were recognizable and intelligible – not unknown gibberish as often purported by Pentecostals and Charismatics today • Consider this. The miracle was in the speaking in different languages and not in the hearing of different languages. • Note 1. The different languages (which came about when God confused the one common language at Babel) represent different nations, which barrier God miraculously overcame for a season, indicating the Gospel is available to everyone • Note 2. Many Jews came from regions of modern Iraq, Iran, and Syria – Nations today which are destroying the Christian heritage they received from this time period 2000+ years ago
More on Tongues	<p>Intelligent Speaking Is Critical For The Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Tongues of unintelligible gibberish are not unique to Christianity. Mormons, Satanists, Witch Doctors, Middle-eastern religions and other cults speak in tongues as well • Difference between Biblical Tongues and modern day tongues is the intelligence factor – Biblical tongues were a known human language unlearned by the speaker and by the interpreter, and were not unintelligible gibberish Acts 2:11



You notice those TV preachers don't speak in tongues when they are asking for money!

Passage	Comments
2:22-36	<p>Known Signs and Wonders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v22a. "Men of Israel" – Peter was addressing fellow Jews. He quoted from familiar Scripture passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why would Peter prefer to quote Scripture instead of working a special sign or miracle, such as levitating above the crowd or cutting off his arm & restoring it? Consider this. Signs & wonders were never meant to manipulate, but to demonstrate God was at work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YES, Signs & Wonders were meant to have a shock & awe impact to grab people's attention NO, Signs & Wonders were never meant to be common place, else they lose their shock & awe value v22b. "Jesus – a man attested to you by God with signs, wonders, and miracles." God gave convincing proofs to those who had eyes to see and ears to hear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs. E.g., the Holy Spirit descending as a dove to testify Jesus was sent by God as the Messiah Wonders. E.g., countless healings & resurrections Miracles. E.g., feeding of 4,000 and 5,000; water changed to wine; walking on water; tempest stilled v23. Jesus went to the cross by God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge. Does this mean men are nothing more than toys in a celestial chess game? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO! Men are not robots since every man is fully accountable for every thought, word, and deed However, God is so sovereign and omniscient, He accomplishes His will whether we are in His will or not, He guides our paths (Prov 3:6), and He even uses the wicked to accomplish His will v24a. God raised up Jesus. Scripture also says the Holy Spirit raised Jesus up from the dead (Romans 8:11) and Jesus, Himself, was able to lay down His life and to take it up again – IOW, He raised Himself up (John 10:17-18) vv24-36. How did Jesus end the "agony of death" for all of us? Since it was impossible for death to hold Him, we now know death won't hold us either
2:37-42	<p>Truth and Conviction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v37. "What must we do to be saved?" What brought these people to the realization they were lost? Answer: When Peter showed them from Scripture they had crucified their Messiah vv38-40. How to be saved – "Repent and be Baptized" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification...Looking at the whole counsel of God salvation is a result of repenting (turning away) from our sins and turning to God's solution through faith in Christ's atoning death. Baptism (immersion in water) is just a work we do that is solely an outward public symbol of an inward change of the heart Peter's statement to repent & be baptized in Jesus' name is not a magical incantation or a formula, but a simple way to convey a lot of truth that we are "saved by grace through faith alone.....Ephesians 2:8-9 Baptizing in Jesus' name also conveys that believers need to be fully immersed into everything there is to know about Jesus – who He is, His mission, our purpose, etc. v41. About 3,000 got saved and baptized. Scholars estimate there may have been about 200,000 attending the annual Jewish festivals in Jerusalem. 3,000 represents ~1.5% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the major stumbling block people have against accepting the Gospel?PRIDE v42. The early church focused on 4 priorities: 1) Apostles' Teaching, 2) Fellowship, 3) Shared Meal, and 4) Praying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are our top 4 church priorities today? Does proclamation of God's word have preeminence? Why is Witnessing not in the top 4 or Baptizing, or would witnessing/baptizing be part of The Apostles' Teaching? Notice. These elements of our walk are community-oriented, not individual-oriented

Passage	Comments
2:43	<p>Signs and Wonders Continue for a Season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shock & Awe continue with more signs, wonders, healings, and miracles from the Apostles, but also with other disciples as we will soon see in this great book. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter's shadow brings healings.....Acts 5:15 Stephen performed "great wonders and signs"6:8 Philip performed healings, signs, and miracles8:6-13 Ananias heals Paul of his blindness9:17 Paul's handkerchief and aprons could heal19:12 Paul heals everyone on the island of Malta28:9
2:44-47	<p>The Lord Added to their Number Day by Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v44. The early church "had all things in common" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does this mean? Should we do this today? Consider this. When a Jewish widow of this time period converted to Christ she would lose her support provided by temple offerings. When others converted to Christ they would lose jobs, business income, family support, etc. So the Church would need to step up, step in, and help out And consider this. It didn't take long for people to game the system. Soon, Apostles had to clarify biblical principles – "If someone doesn't work, they don't eat"2Thes 3:10 v47a. The Lord added daily to their numbers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice the Lord is acknowledged as the source of our evangelistic success Salvation does not occur when we successfully convince someone of biblical truths or we win an argument v47b. "...as many as should be saved" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God's sovereignty also plays into everyone's salvation Consider this. We are so concerned about numbers sometimes we consider everyone saved who makes a profession of faith by repeating a formula prayer or who gets baptized. This is called Easy Believism
Tragedy of Easy Believism	<p>Sometimes we make it too easy to get "saved," to be baptized, and to become church members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People think they are saved by following a formula (walk the aisle and recite a prayer with no true repentance from their sins and no obedience to God's word beyond that point) We think they are saved because they followed the formula And not until they fail to return or they leave following the first major problem they encounter do we realize their fate is possibly sealed from ever coming to Christ due to an irreversible hardened heartHeb 6:4-6

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The Holy Spirit is as effective today as He was in the earliest days of the Church
- Though, God is not working supernatural signs and wonders as He once did in the 1st century, and the office of Apostles has ceased, yet we still have the Holy Spirit guiding us individually and corporately to help grow the Lord's Church in these last days, numerically and spiritually
- We may not have the shock and awe factor Jesus & His Apostles did, but we do have the confirmed word of God, which we need to proclaim and articulate since every person will be judged by it

NEXT WEEK: Acts 3. Peter heals a lame beggar (who exhibited no faith) with just a few words, just as Jesus did. Peter came from a fairly wealthy family who had a lucrative fishing business, and we'll see that many Christians cast no small sum of money at his feet to take care of the poor, so why did Peter say to the beggar, "I don't have any money to give you"?

