

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

I couldn't believe my ears! My 6th Grade Sunday School teacher had just told me that something in the Bible was wrong. This did not compute! I had known this woman my whole life and looked up to her as much as anyone I knew. She was the best definition of a "strong Christian" I could think of and now she was telling me that something in the Bible was WRONG??

She told me and my class that the Book of the Bible often referred to simply as "Acts" was officially titled "The Acts of the Apostles". She then shocked me by saying, "I am pretty sure whoever decided to call it that got it wrong. The book should really be called 'The Acts of the Holy Spirit.' "

After my initial surprise, I went on to hear her explain that the apostles would have been unable to "act" if it were not for the strength that they had received through the Holy Spirit and that it is the Spirit who really should get the credit in the title of the Book. That made me feel better and it is a lesson that has stayed with me. When I hear the account of the apostles and the early church now, I can't help but think of the "Acts of the Holy Spirit."

This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost - the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' followers in Jerusalem and sent them out into the world to begin the process of "making disciples of all nations". This was a powerful "Act of the Holy Spirit" but not the only one we celebrate on Sunday. This weekend at the 11:00 bilingual service, we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation with 5 students who have been led by the Spirit to publicly confess their faith. I have been working with the students for months and have grown very fond of them as they have asked lots of good questions in their desire to know God better and to follow him more closely. The faith that lives in each of them is a powerful "act of the Holy Spirit" indeed!

How is the Spirit "acting" in your life? Is he leading you to share your faith with a friend, explore your Bible more than you have before or to initiate more faith discussion in your home? This summer, our Summer Sunday School theme for the kids is "Getting Our ACTS Together- Lessons from the Early Church". They will be learning lots about the Holy Spirit. If you have elementary aged kids, I hope you will have them join us. But you don't have to have kids in the class to keep your eyes open to look for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and to enthusiastically follow where He leads!

Holy Spirit of God- renew my heart with a desire and passion to follow you and to grow in faith. Make my faith contagious and give me opportunities to share my love for Jesus with others. Act in me as powerfully as you did with the apostles in the New Testament. Amen

~ Eric Gerken | Director of Youth & Family Ministry

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