

# **ACTS: The Empowered Church**

**(Acts 1:4-5, 7-8, 12-14, 2:1-17)**

## **Introduction**

If you have ever attended a drag race, you understand the term “roar to life.”

While in high school, a normal Sunday afternoon included a trip to Prescott Raceway Park, just south of where I lived. It was a fun place to hang out and watch mostly local people pretend they were professionals. One Sunday afternoon, a couple of “rail cars” were brought in to boost attendance.

I remember watching them push the car into place at the Christmas Tree (starting lights). They attached the starter and the car roared to life. It wreaked of power! It screamed speed! It cried out “watch me!”

When we read the book of Acts, we see the Church roar to life. She was established during Jesus’ earthly ministry, but empowered on the day of Pentecost. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit.

As a result they preached boldly, stepped out in faith, and saw thousands of lives changed in a single moment.

Today we read these stories, and as a Bible-believing church, we believe that they really happened. When we hear stories from our missionaries about God’s amazing, miraculous work overseas, we celebrate and praise God.

But we wonder: Why does this not happen in every church? Should it happen in every church? If not, why not?

This week we dive into The Book of Acts and ask ourselves, “Are we willing to do what’s necessary to see God move in our church, our community, like he did around the day of Pentecost?”

# **I. The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

(In the same way that the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus for His earthly ministry, He empowers modern believers for ministry, too.)

**(Matthew 3:13-17)**

I **(John 5:30** – “I can do nothing on My own. I judge only as hear, and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

**A) The Savior’s Mission (1:7-8)**

**B) The Spirit’s Muscle (1:7-8)**

**C) The Saint’s Mandate (1:4-5;12-14).**

# **II. The Benefits of the Holy Spirit**

**A) Empowerment for Ministry (2:1-4)**

Wind is power (tornado)

Fire is life (cold and dark)

**B) Extraordinary Ministry Results (2:5-7)**

**C) Overcomes Ministry barriers (2:8-11)**

# **III. The Results of the Holy Spirit**

**A) Unexplainable results (2:12)**

**B) Unexpected responses (2:13)**

**C) Uplifted reputation (2:14-17a)**

# Conclusion