

ACTS: POWERED FOR PURPOSE

Week 2 • Deeper Study Guide

Acts 2:1–18 | "The Temple Has Become Mobile"

THE DEEPER THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

If you asked an Old Testament Israelite where God lived, the answer was simple: the Temple. God's presence had an address. The Holy of Holies. The glory cloud. The fire. A building contained the divine.

Then Acts 2 happens — and everything changes. Wind. Fire. Tongues. Luke is not recording random phenomena. He is writing deliberate theology. Every detail in the Pentecost narrative echoes the Old Testament dedication of the Tabernacle and Temple. But this time, there is no building. No altar. No ark. No priesthood. God fills ordinary people.

The deeper question Acts 2 forces us to wrestle with is this: Do we still treat God's presence as something we go to — or have we grasped that we are the place where heaven meets earth?

The Central Theological Shift

- Old Testament: God's presence had a fixed address — the Temple in Jerusalem
- Old Testament worship said: "Come to where God is"
- Acts 2 declares: The Temple is no longer a building — it is a body of people
- The Church doesn't visit God's presence. The Church carries it.

Key insight: When the Temple was dedicated in 1 Kings 8, the glory came down and stayed inside. People traveled to Jerusalem to meet God. At Pentecost, the glory comes down — and immediately walks out into the streets. The Temple is now moving.

SCRIPTURE THREAD

Trace the Temple theme through Scripture:

- Exodus 25:8 — God's original intent: to dwell among His people
- Exodus 40:34–35 — Glory fills the Tabernacle at dedication
- 1 Kings 8:10–11 — Glory fills Solomon's Temple
- Ezekiel 37:1–14 — Wind breathes life into dry bones (new creation)
- Genesis 11:1–9 — Babel: languages divide humanity
- Acts 2:1–4 — Pentecost: the Spirit unites across every language
- 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 — "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit"
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 — "You are God's temple"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Luke uses wind, fire, and tongues deliberately. What does each symbol communicate about what God is doing at Pentecost? (See Ezekiel 37, Exodus 3, Genesis 11.)
- Peter doesn't spend Acts 2 explaining the phenomenon of tongues — he preaches Jesus. What does that tell us about the purpose of spiritual gifts?
- If you truly carry God's presence into every room you enter — your office, your home, your neighborhood — how does that change the way you think about Monday morning?
- Where in your life are you still treating faith as something you do on Sundays rather

The Pattern:

Pentecost is not a random event. It is the fulfillment of everything God was building toward since Exodus 25. He always wanted to dwell in people, not just places.

than something that moves through you all week?

- Have you sought everything God has for you? What would it look like to pursue the fullness of the Spirit this week?

A NOTE ON TONGUES — WHAT THE TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS

Tongues appear four primary times in Acts: Acts 2, Acts 10, Acts 19, and Acts 8 (strongly implied). Luke considers this significant — and so should we. Here is what the text teaches:

- Acts 2 tongues were real, known human languages — miraculous speech glorifying God, not emotional hype
- Tongues in Acts are consistently associated with the initial reception of Spirit baptism — not as the greatest evidence, but as the initial one
- Paul describes a personal prayer language (1 Corinthians 14) that edifies the believer and deepens communion with God
- Public tongues in corporate worship require interpretation — always for the edification of the body (1 Cor. 14:27–28)
- Luke (Acts) and Paul (1 Corinthians) are answering different questions. Luke is historical; Paul is pastoral. Neither cancels the other.

The bottom line: Spiritual maturity is measured by Christlike character, not by any single spiritual experience. But we should never settle for less than everything God intends for us. Seek Him fully.

RESOURCES FOR DEEPER STUDY

BOOKS

- Surprised by the Power of the Spirit — Jack Deere | Examines the biblical case for Spirit-empowered gifts continuing today; essential reading for understanding Acts 2 in context.
- The Holy Spirit: An Introduction — John Bevere | Accessible, AG-aligned treatment of who the Spirit is and what He does. Excellent for personal or group study.
- Forgotten God — Francis Chan | Asks the uncomfortable question: why does the Spirit-filled life of Acts look so foreign to modern Christianity?
- Acts: An Exegetical Commentary (Vol. 1) — Craig Keener | The gold standard scholarly commentary. Keener's treatment of Acts 2 and the Pentecost narrative is unparalleled.
- Spirit and Kingdom: Pentecostal Perspectives — Various AG scholars | Directly addresses the theological framework behind Acts 2 from a Pentecostal perspective.

PODCASTS & SERMONS

- "Acts 2 and the Day of Pentecost" — The Bible Project podcast | Outstanding overview of the literary and theological structure of Acts 2, including the Babel reversal theme.
- "Holy Spirit" — Bible Project YouTube series | Visual explainer on the Spirit's role from Genesis through Acts. Theologically rich and accessible.
- "What Is Spirit Baptism?" — General Council of the Assemblies of God (ag.org) | The official AG position paper — clear, pastoral, and scripturally grounded.
- "The Day Everything Changed" — Christine Caine / Propel Women | Excellent message on Acts 2 and what Pentecost means for believers today.

- "Acts" series — Life.Church Open Network (open.life.church) | Full series available free with strong application focus.

ARTICLES & ONLINE RESOURCES

- "The Baptism in the Holy Spirit" — Assemblies of God position paper (ag.org) | Definitive AG theological statement on Spirit baptism and tongues as initial evidence.
- "Pentecost and the Reversal of Babel" — The Gospel Coalition (thegospelcoalition.org) | Explores the Genesis 11 / Acts 2 connection in depth.
- "What Were the Tongues of Pentecost?" — Bible Gateway Blog | Clear, accessible overview of the linguistic nature of tongues in Acts 2.
- "You Are the Temple" — Crosswalk.com | Practical devotional on 1 Corinthians 6:19 and what it means to carry God's presence daily.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Don't just study Acts 2 — let it reorient how you see yourself:

- Read Acts 2 in full, then read 1 Kings 8:1–11. Compare the two dedications. What is the same? What is radically different?
- Memorize 1 Corinthians 6:19. Write it somewhere visible. Every morning this week, say it out loud before you leave the house.
- Pick one ordinary space you enter every day — your workplace, your gym, your neighborhood — and consciously walk in as someone who carries God's presence. Ask God to use you there.
- If you have never asked God for the fullness of His Spirit, this week is the week. Seek Him. He is not reluctant to fill you.

"The Old Testament said, 'Come to the Temple.' Acts says, 'The Temple is coming to you.'"