

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

The Early Church

Among Jesus' final words to His disciples was a promise: "*Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:4, 8).

The work of the Holy Spirit and the witness of Jesus' followers is what fills the rest of the Bible, from Acts to Revelation.

Tongues of Fire (Acts 2)

Many political and religious movements throughout history have crumbled when the leader quit, died, or otherwise stopped providing motivation and leadership. At this time the believers in Jesus number was only 120 (Acts 1:15), and with their leader gone, it might be anticipated that Christianity will never come to fruition.

Yet, Jesus is replaced with another God-sent leader: the Holy Spirit. One day when the believers are together, the sound of violent wind fills the room and what looks like tongues of fire rests on each person. At that point, "all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4).

Visiting Jerusalem at the time are "God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven (Acts 2:5). As it turns out, the followers of Jesus are "declaring the wonders of God" in the language of all those people (Acts 2:11). Everyone hears about Jesus in his or her own language. Naturally, some people chalk up this unconventional event to the disciples' having too much wine (Acts 2: 14). But Peter assures the crowds that is not the case. After his short sermon, "*about three thousand were added to their number that day*" (Acts 2:41). The believers begin a communal lifestyle, eating and worshipping together, and sharing their possessions with those who are in need. And their numbers continue to grow (vv. 46-47).

It is in the pages of Acts that we meet those who gave structure to the community of faith Jesus started. The Acts of the Apostles is such a backdrop. It offers a logical sequel to the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). In actuality, it is Luke's continuation of the account he wrote of Jesus' life.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

What we see in Acts is the ministry of the ascended and unseen Christ through the lives of ordinary people who make themselves available to Him. Notice the word “began,” which highlight Jesus is continuing His mission of redemption, healing, and love through those He commissioned. “Ye shall be my witnesses to me in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The resurrected Christ is the central theme of sermons, defenses, and the life of the Church through the entire book of Acts.

Just because Jesus ascends into heaven in chapter 1 of Acts, doesn’t mean He doesn’t figure significantly into the rest of Acts. In fact, Luke (the author of Acts) intended Acts to be an apologetic that logically attests to Jesus’ divinity. Notice Luke’s reference to the eyewitness accounts of Jesus’ Resurrection, the firsthand testimonies of Jesus’ followers (including a converted critic of Christianity by the name of Saul), and the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s supernatural power. No wonder Luke quotes Peter as saying, “To Him (Jesus) all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive the remission of sins” (Acts 10:43). “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

- **Spirit-Powered People**
- **Persecution from Without**
- **Persecution from Within**

Please continue to read from the above book and identify the chapters, and the verses that fits the passage in the outline in preparation of our Bible Study’s discussion. Your thoughts and feedback help to develop group understanding of the material covered. Please feel free to ask questions, send follow-up emails, and text for further discussion.

Note: The intent of the materials covered is to help those who may be unfamiliar with the Bible to gather a working knowledge of what is read – from Genesis to Revelation – in a short period of time. Woven throughout the Bible is a story line, a plot, a flow of action. Remember, this is not an in-depth study, yet a basic overview of each book, providing a fundamental understanding of the Bible. My prayer is that our study time will help each of us strengthen our knowledge of God’s Word. Amen.