



# The Holy Spirit Makes A Difference

**"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).**

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## Introduction

As we have journeyed through the **Acts of the Apostles** in detail and in overview, one truth shines clearly: the book is not so much the *acts of the apostles* as it is the **acts of the Holy Ghost through the apostles**.

Without the Spirit, the disciples were fearful, uncertain, and hiding behind closed doors. With the Spirit, they became bold, unstoppable, and turned the world upside down. The difference was not education, strategy, or organisation—it was the **Holy Ghost of God dwelling within and working through them**.

Let's consider this in three parts:

1. **The indispensable role of the Holy Ghost in the early church.**
2. **The same Spirit's availability for us today.**
3. **Practical steps for walking in the Spirit's power.**

## 1. The Indispensable Role of the Holy Ghost in the Early Church

The apostles' accomplishments were not humanly possible; they were Spirit-empowered.

### (a) Boldness in Witnessing

Before Pentecost, Peter denied Christ thrice. After Pentecost, he stood and preached with such authority that three thousand souls were converted.

*Acts 2:4* – "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

The Spirit transformed timidity into holy boldness.

### (b) Unity of the Church

**and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2).**

The early church had believers from different backgrounds, yet they were united in love and generosity.

*Acts 4:32* – "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

Such unity was not organisational but spiritual.

### (c) Miracles, Signs, and Wonders

Through the Spirit, the apostles healed the sick, cast out devils, and even raised the dead.

*Acts 5:12* – "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch)."

The miracles confirmed the Word and glorified Christ.

### (d) Guidance in Mission

When decisions needed to be made, the Spirit directed them.

*Acts 13:2* – "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

The growth of the church was Spirit-led, not man-made.

## 2. The Same Spirit Is Availability for Us Today

The Holy Ghost has not retired. What He did in

Acts, He desires to do in us today.

*John 14:16–17* – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

This Comforter is still with us. The church today faces challenges—secularism, immorality, hostility—but the same Spirit that empowered Peter and Paul dwells in us.

The question is not whether the Spirit is available, but whether we are surrendered to Him.

### 3. Practical Steps for Walking in the Spirit's Power

How then can we today develop and maintain an effective relationship with the Holy Ghost?

#### (a) Repentance and Surrender

The Spirit fills vessels that are cleansed and yielded.

*Acts 2:38* – “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

We must begin with repentance and total surrender to Christ.

#### (b) Prayer and Waiting upon God

The apostles received the Spirit while tarrying in prayer.

*Acts 1:14* – “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”

If we neglect corporate prayer in unity, we quench the Spirit.

#### (c) Obedience to the Word of God

The Spirit works through those who obey.

*Acts 5:32* – “And we are his witnesses of these things; and **so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.**”

We cannot walk in disobedience and expect the Spirit's power.

#### (d) Fellowship with Other Believers

The Spirit moves mightily in the context of unity and fellowship.

*Hebrews 10:25* – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

*Acts 2:1* “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.”

Isolation quenches the Spirit; fellowship fuels His fire.

#### (e) Continual Filling

The early Christians were not just filled once; they sought repeated fillings.

*Ephesians 5:18* – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

We must seek daily infilling through prayer, worship, surrender and developing intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

#### Conclusion & Challenge

The book of Acts is not closed. It continues in us, for the same Spirit is still at work. **The question is: are we living as if the Holy Ghost truly dwells in us?**

Beloved, let us not attempt to serve God in our own strength. Like the apostles, let us repent, surrender, pray, obey, fellowship, and seek daily filling. Then shall we see in our own generation what was seen in theirs: bold witness, unity, miracles, guidance, and exponential growth of the Church.

***Zechariah 4:6* – “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

May the Lord fill us afresh with His Spirit, that we too may turn our world upside down for Christ. **Amen.**