

The book of Acts is the second part of Luke’s two-volume work (originally Luke-Acts) in which the Scripture highlights all Jesus continued to do and teach after his ascension. Here we find the historical birth of the Holy Spirit empowered church and enduring teaching about the acting of God in history through his Spirit in his people.

What does Acts mean for us in 2024? First, this is our spiritual family. Second, this is the story into which we have been plunged, just a little farther down the stream of history. Third, we inherit the same mission as outlined in the book of Acts. Finally, this is the same God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who is active in our lives and world today. Here we learn of him and are invited to walk faithfully as we practically learn of his Lordship and are filled with his Spirit.

**Our Power Supply**

April 28, 2024 | Acts 4:23–31 | Pastor Taylor Bradbury

**God empowers his people for life and mission through corporate prayer focused on God and His Holy Word.**

**Acts 3:23–31**

23When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“‘Why did the Gentiles rage,
     and the peoples plot in vain?
26The kings of the earth set themselves,
     and the rulers were gathered together,
     against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

27for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Leader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

1. **The Disciple’s Report of Danger to Friends (23)**

The immediate reaction of the group was to join together in prayer. Luke stresses the oneness of spirit which was evident; the effect of persecution was to bind the members of the church together so that there was a common desire to pray. Whatever may have been the manner in which the prayer was conducted, the wording that follows expresses the common sentiments of those assembled (I. Howard Marshall).

1. **The Church’s Response of Prayer Together (24–30)**
2. Their prayer was instant.
3. Their prayer was full of God.
4. Their prayer used Scripture.
5. Their prayer named needs.

**3. The Lord’s Reply to the Church’s Corporate Prayer (31)**

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:18–20)

11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Luke 11:11–13)