

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Eleven

IN ACTS: The Twelve Apostles on Pentecost

Burden to Impart:

As those who are called by the Lord learn to be one, pray together, and stand together to speak the Lord's Word, God will give to them the Spirit, the boldness, and the power that they need to fulfill their commission to preach the gospel.

Memory Verse: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Facts to Teach:

1. Before the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, He charged His disciples to go into all the earth to preach the gospel and to make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:19). They were to begin at Jerusalem (where they lived), then spread to all Judea, then Samaria, then go even to the most remote part of the earth (Acts 1:8).
2. Such a great commission could never be accomplished by their own ability or strength. They needed God. They needed God's Spirit to fill them and empower them. So they gathered together to pray. About 120 of them prayed for ten days (Acts 1:14-15) straight.
3. Then, when the feast of Pentecost had begun, God poured out the Holy Spirit upon them all. They heard a noise out of heaven like a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire appeared and sat on each of them (Acts 2:2-4). God's Spirit had been poured out upon them all to fill them with power and boldness so that they could speak His Word and bear witness of the resurrection of Jesus before all the people. Indeed, their tongues became like tongues of fire!
4. They were assembled in Jerusalem, the very city that had just fifty days earlier rejected and crucified Jesus. The city was crowded with Jews from many lands who were visiting to keep the feast of Pentecost. This was the hardest place in the world to testify, but the time had come.
5. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples all began to speak and testify. God enabled them to speak in languages they had never learned, so that everyone would understand them. Then the twelve Apostles gave testimony. Peter was the spokesman, but he did not stand alone. He stood "together with the eleven" (Acts 2:14). He boldly preached to the people, charging them with having crucified Jesus. They were so convicted and subdued that they asked the Apostles, "What should we do?" Peter told them that they must "repent and be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 2:38).
6. That day three thousand people received the Apostles' witness and were baptized. This was the beginning of the church life.