

The Way
Birth of the Church
Lesson 01: The Glorified Christ Sent the Holy Spirit

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

BIG Idea

Our purpose in meeting for the next year on *The Way* is to study the Bible.
Forty-one Lessons; 4 Stops (*Birth, Growth, Maturity, and Fruit of the Church*)

Our focus throughout this series will be learning to **speak and live out the gospel.**

We must decide to live in the Way of Jesus (not a term originating with us).

Acts 9:2 (ESV) ...if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women...

Acts 19:23 (ESV) ...there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.

Acts 22:4 (ESV) I persecuted this Way to the death...

Why is the church called The Way?

“It means that Christianity is more than a set of doctrines. Following Jesus is a *way* of living as well as believing. Christianity was spreading everywhere.” – David Guzik

Information (What You Need to Know)

Five Happenings Following the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven...

1. The Apostles waited for the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:4 (ESV) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:12 (ESV) Then they returned to Jerusalem... **14** All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

2. The Holy Spirit would now dwell in those who believed

✓ Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would live inside believers

John 14:16 (ESV) “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

✓ The church is God’s house on earth

- God's first house was the tabernacle (Moses built; God dwelled in it)



- God's second house was the temple (King Solomon built; God dwelled in it)



- God's house is in those who believe (Jesus secured; Holy Spirit indwells)

3. The Holy Spirit arrives

First Actions of the Holy Spirit upon His Arrival...

- ✓ Believers are filled with the Holy Spirit (guide, teach, enable believers to speak)
Acts 2:4 (ESV) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...
- ✓ Believers speak in languages not their own and had never learned (tongues)
Acts 2:4 (ESV) ...speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- ✓ Believers proclaim the Gospel (through speaking in tongues) to those gathered
Acts 2:5 (ESV) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** ...the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?"
- ✓ Believers were empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak the Gospel
Acts 1:8 (ESV) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
"The Holy Spirit gave believers in Jerusalem the ability to speak in the languages of these Jews who were visiting from other countries so they would hear what God had done through the Lord Jesus." – Firm Foundations

4. The Apostle Peter explains the significance of the Holy Spirit's arrival

- ✓ Many were skeptical about what was happening
Acts 2:12 (ESV) all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."
- ✓ Peter explained that those speaking in tongues were not drunk
Acts 2:15 (ESV) "For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day."

✓ Peter reminded them of a couple things...

- Jesus had performed miracles

Acts 2:22 (ESV) “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know...”

- They had rejected Jesus as Savior and Deliverer

Acts 2:23 (ESV) “...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed...”

- God had raised Jesus from the dead, and many witnessed it

Acts 2:24 (ESV) “God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”

- Jesus was now exalted at the right hand of God

Acts 2:33 (ESV) “Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.”

5. Peter told them to acknowledge the true identity of Jesus

Acts 2:36 (ESV) “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

- ✓ They should acknowledge Jesus as Lord

“The Jews refused to acknowledge that Jesus was God. He claimed to be the Son of God, but they accused Him of blasphemy and crucified Him. Peter called them to admit Jesus was who He had claimed to be.” – Firm Foundations

- ✓ They should acknowledge Jesus as Christ

“The Jews refused to accept Jesus as Christ, the Deliverer God promised. Peter called them to admit that Jesus was the Christ, the One who had fulfilled all the OT prophecies, and was their Prophet, Priest and King.” – Firm Foundations

Application (What You Need to Do)

Through Peter’s words, the Holy Spirit convinced these people that Jesus was who He had claimed to be – the Son of God and the promised Deliverer.

Acts 2:37 (ESV) Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

As we speak the truth, the Holy Spirit can bring people to the realization that Jesus is their Savior and Deliverer from sin.

John 16:8 (ESV) “And when he comes, he will **convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment**: **9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; **11** concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

The Spirit, through OUR speaking the Gospel, does HIS work...

- He convicts people of their sin (they are guilty before a Holy God)
- He convicts of people’s need for righteousness (made right through a Savior)
- He convicts people of coming judgment (what they face if they reject Jesus)

Acts 2:38 (ESV) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

Those who repented and believed were baptized.

This showed that they agreed with what God had taught them through Peter.

By being dipped under water (baptized), they were making a public statement that they were now trusting in the Lord Jesus as the promised Deliverer sent from God.