

The Birth of the Church

Introduction: Prior to this point in the Bible, the church was anticipated. Now it is going to become a _____. The birth of the local church is one of the most important events in biblical history.

- I. The _____ of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1)
- A. "Notice that the Lord's _____ was one of both *doing* and *teaching*."
 - B. The _____ is a proven fact (Col. 4:14).
 - C. Christ gave the promise of the _____ Spirit before and after He arose (Lu. 24:49; Jn. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13).
 - D. From Pentecost and forward, believers have been privileged with the _____ indwelling of the Holy Spirit (contrast Ps. 51:1; 1 Sam. 16:14; Jdg. 16:20).
 - E. The disciples were concerned with the future, but Jesus had a job for them to do in the _____.
 - F. It is the job of _____ believer to get the Word of God out.
 - G. The Holy Spirit will give us _____ (Eph. 5:18).
 - H. The Lord Jesus then ascended back to _____ (Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 12:2).
 - I. Unity and _____ were the precursors of Pentecost.
 - J. Peter had been _____ to the Lord's service after his denial (Jn. 21).
 - K. Someone had been chosen to _____ Judas.
- II. The _____ of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)
- A. Pentecost was a prophesied event; it cannot be _____.
 - B. God's _____ was revealed when the Spirit descended.
 - C. Here is the _____ of the church; up to this point the church was anticipated (Mt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:13).
 - D. Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment of _____; it is not something a believer needs to wait for (Acts 11:15-16; Ro. 6:3; Col. 2:12).
 - E. This gift of tongues was a sign gift to _____ this important event.
 - F. The gift of tongues was not gibberish, but known _____.
 - G. It is a gift that has _____ (1 Cor. 13:8).
 - H. There were many _____ concerning the use of this gift in the early church (1 Cor. 14).
 - I. Peter preached a _____ message and about 3,000 were saved!
 - J. The early church had important trademarks: studying the _____, having _____, observing _____, and _____.
 - K. God did a _____ work in the lives of the early church members.

Conclusion: "This power is the grand indispensable of Christian witness. A man may be highly talented, intensively trained, and widely experienced, but without spiritual power he is ineffective. On the other hand, a man may be uneducated, unattractive, and unrefined, yet let him be endued with the power of the Holy Spirit and the world will turn out to see him burn for God" (MacDonald).