

**A 3–D Approach to What We Believe:
Doctrine, Discernment, & Discipline
This Could/Should/Will Be
the Start of Something Big!**

—Acts 1–2 (with other supporting scripture)

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer. —from ACEFC's Statement of Faith

"I will build My church ... and the power of evil will never destroy it ..." —Matthew 16:18

"the Father will send another Helper, to be with you forever, that is the Spirit of Truth ... Who will reside in you." —John 14:16

Jesus explained, "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 farthest parts of the earth." —Acts 1:8

When the Day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place ... and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.** —Acts 2:1 ... 4

And that day about 3000 people were added ... everyone continued feeling a sense of awe ... And all who believed were unified in a community of sharing with and caring for one another ... every day they continued to gather together ... and **the Lord was adding to their number those who were being saved!** —Acts 2:41–47

The FOCUS for Today's Study:

Is there a that
leads to?

—The day when Jesus ASCENDED to Heaven
Acts 1

- 1) Jesus INSTRUCTED His apostles over a time of 40 days following His resurrection.

- 2) His apostles INQUIRED about when the Kingdom would be restored to Israel?

- 3) Jesus INFORMED them that they couldn't know the times God has established by His sovereign authority.

- 4) But Jesus IDENTIFIED the **power** they would receive when the Holy Spirit "arrives."

—5) Jesus ascended into Heaven in the **IDENTICAL** way that He would return.

—The day when the Holy Spirit **DESCENDED**
upon the Lord's followers
Acts 2

—1) The Holy Spirit came to **INDWELL** all the Lord's faithful followers.

—2) Many visitors were in Jerusalem and most of the crowds were **IMPRESSED** by this amazing event!

—3) Peter began to preach— he **INVITED** everyone:
to **recognize** Jesus as the promised Messiah and
to **repent** of their sins for forgiveness!

—4) Many people responded by trusting Jesus as Lord & Savior!
The number of followers **INCREASED** by over 3000!

—PERSONAL APPLICATIONS & LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN:

{1} Whenever God commands, instructs, or asks us to do something,

—We are _____ & _____ when God's Spirit
_____ our _____ & _____ !

{2} Once we **acknowledge** God's **provision**,
the INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY INCLUDE:

— _____
— _____
— _____
— _____

{3} Always **depend** (wait, expect, anticipate, rely, pray) on
God's _____ & _____ !

—His **plans** and **purposes** are _____ & _____ !

—We can't **force** (argue, persuade, convince) anyone to believe
because _____
