

The Book of

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



12 Lessons

Prepared by:
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2000

A STUDY OF
THE ACTS
OF
THE
APOSTLES

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Preface to the Study

The following studies on the book of **ACTS** have been prepared with the New Christian in mind. It is designed to help strengthen and root him/her in the faith.

The importance of the book of **ACTS** cannot be overstressed for the New Christian especially. It is in reality a “center-point” for the entire Bible. It tells of the beginning of the church (kingdom of God), the beginning of the New Covenant under Christ, how people were converted under the early preaching, and gives a brief history of the church as it spread throughout the world.

Instructions

1. Please read each lesson ahead of time and answer the questions the best that you can.
2. Make notes of any questions raised by your study so they can be discussed when you get together with your teacher to go over the lesson.
3. Be prepared to spend about an hour or so each week with a teacher who has gone through this material already.

Lesson One

**"PREPARATIONS FOR
THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH"**

(A. D. 29) (33)

Text To Read: Acts 1:1-26

The Gospels open with the coming of Jesus, the Savior of mankind (Matthew 1:21). Both He and John the baptizer later preached: ***"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"*** (Matthew 3:2; 4:17). During His public ministry, Jesus promised to build His church or kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19), and even the powers of Hades could not prevent Him from doing so. He taught the people by parables to help them envision the kind of kingdom that would be established among men. His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension back to the Father made the beginning of the church or kingdom possible. Men were now ready to enter into it (Acts 2:33).

THE GREAT COMMISSION TO HIS CHOSEN APOSTLES

During His public ministry Jesus chose twelve men to serve as special ambassadors for His kingdom. After His resurrection He appeared to His apostles instructing them to take His message of the kingdom to the whole world (Mark 16:15). The accounts are found in the Gospels and also in Acts of Jesus giving this commission to them (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8). The summation of these Scriptures would indicate the following:

- 1) Go into all the world, beginning at Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria;
- 2) Preach the Gospel, make disciples of the nations;
- 3) To be saved, the hearers must believe, repent and be baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit;
- 4) To continue to teach them to observe all that Jesus had commanded.

The apostles began their preaching in the city of Jerusalem, but it wasn't long until it had progressed into Judea and Samaria. Upon the persecution by Saul of Tarsus, the message began to be carried into all the world. They fulfilled their mission in about 30-35 years (Col. 1:23). The book of acts follows this basic outline as given in Acts 1:8.

ACTS, A BOOK OF CONVERSIONS

The primary theme or thrust of a book is seen by what occupies most of its thoughts. Acts concerns itself primarily with the outcome of the preaching of the of the Gospel throughout the world, giving example after example of conversions and non-conversions of it's hearers. Some of the accounts are very brief while others are more involved. These accounts of conversion selected by the Holy Spirit from the many thousands of conversions to give information mankind would need for all time.

These conversions cover a wide range of people from various backgrounds. The following chart will give a listing of the more lengthy examples of conversion to Christ and at the same time illustrate how His commission to His apostles was carried out.

Examples of Becoming a Christian

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Hear</i>	<i>Faith</i>	<i>Repent</i>	<i>Confess</i>	<i>Baptize</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Promise</i>
Peter	2:22-44	Jews	37	44	38		38	41	42	38
Philip	8:5-17	Samaritans	6	12			12	12		
Philip	8:26-39	Ethiopian	35	37		37	38	38	39	
Ananias	22:3-16	Saul	7	10			16	16		
Peter	10:1-11:18	Cornelius	33	43	11:18		48	48		11:14
Paul	16:13-15	Lydia	14	14			15	15	15	
Paul	16:25-34	Jailer	32	31			33	33	34	31
Paul	18:8	Corinthians	8	8			8	8		
Paul	19:1-20	Ephesians					5	5	6	

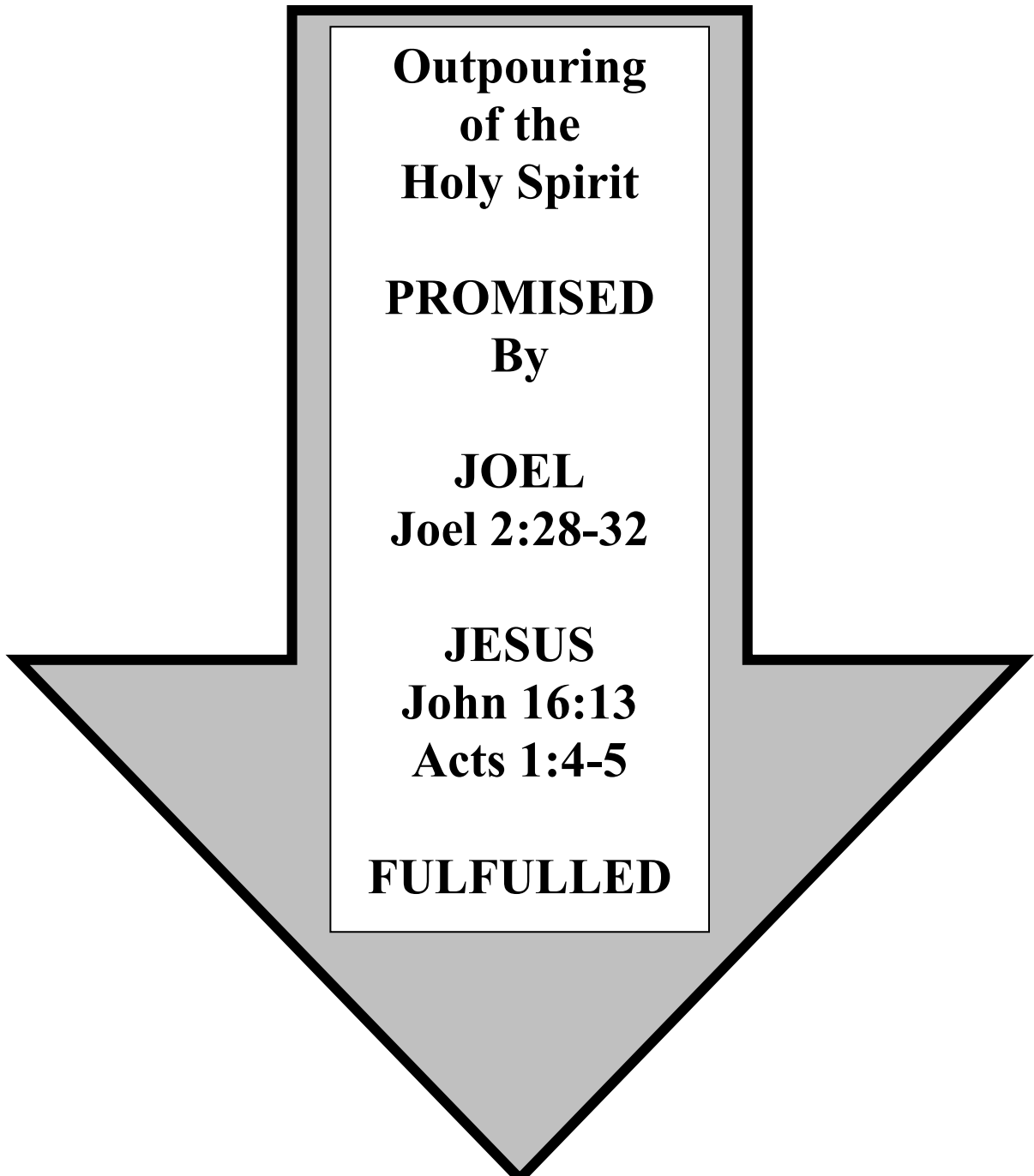
THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT RECORDED IN ACTS

The book of Acts also shows the part that the Holy Spirit played in the fulfilling of the Great Commission of Jesus. On the night Jesus was betrayed He promised the Holy Spirit to His chosen Apostles. When He came, He would be a Comforter to them as well as a guide into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13-16). This promise was repeated again in Acts 1:4-5 and the purpose stated for His coming is given in Acts 1:8. Chapter two of Acts records the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost and the results of His coming. The rest of Acts records the various activities of the Holy Spirit working with the early church. Questions and special Charts are given to help better understand and clarify the Holy Spirit's part in man's conversion to God.

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 1:1-26

- 1. What other book did the writer of this book produce? (See Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1)**
- 2. Why did Jesus appear to His Apostles after His resurrection? (1:2-3)**
- 3. What promise did Jesus repeat to the Apostles? (1:4-5; John 16:13) (See Chart #1)**
- 4. What was the purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles? (1:8)**
- 5. After Jesus' ascension, where did the Apostles go to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit? (1:9-14) (See also Isaiah 2:2-3)**
- 6. What was the place called where Judas was buried? (1:19)**
- 7. Whom did the Apostles choose to take the place of Judas Iscariot? (1:15-26)**
- 8. What qualified a disciple to be an Apostle? (1:21-22)**
- 9. How long did the Apostles have to wait for the Holy Spirit to come? (1:3; 2:1)**

Chart #1



Acts 2:1-4

Lesson Two

**“THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH
(CHRISTIANITY)”**

(A. D. 29) (33)

Text to Read: Acts 2:1-47

The Gospels record the preparatory work for the coming of the church or kingdom of God and Acts 2:1-47 records the actual beginning of the kingdom among men. A New Covenant was ushered in by God on this eventful day also (Hebrews 9:17). According to the prophet Isaiah, the word of the Lord would go forth from the city of Jerusalem to all nations (Isaiah 2:2-3). In fulfillment of this prophecy, Jesus told His apostles to begin witnessing of Him in the city of Jerusalem after the Holy Spirit had come upon them with power (Acts 1:8)---taking the good news of Jesus to all nations (Mark 16:15). The prophet Isaiah also stated that at this same time the “Lord’s house” would be established, into which all nations would flow (Isaiah 2:1-2). Peter, in stating that the prophecy of Joel was being fulfilled, indicated that the events recorded in Acts 2 was happening in the last days, which Isaiah states would be the time when the Lord’s house would be established.

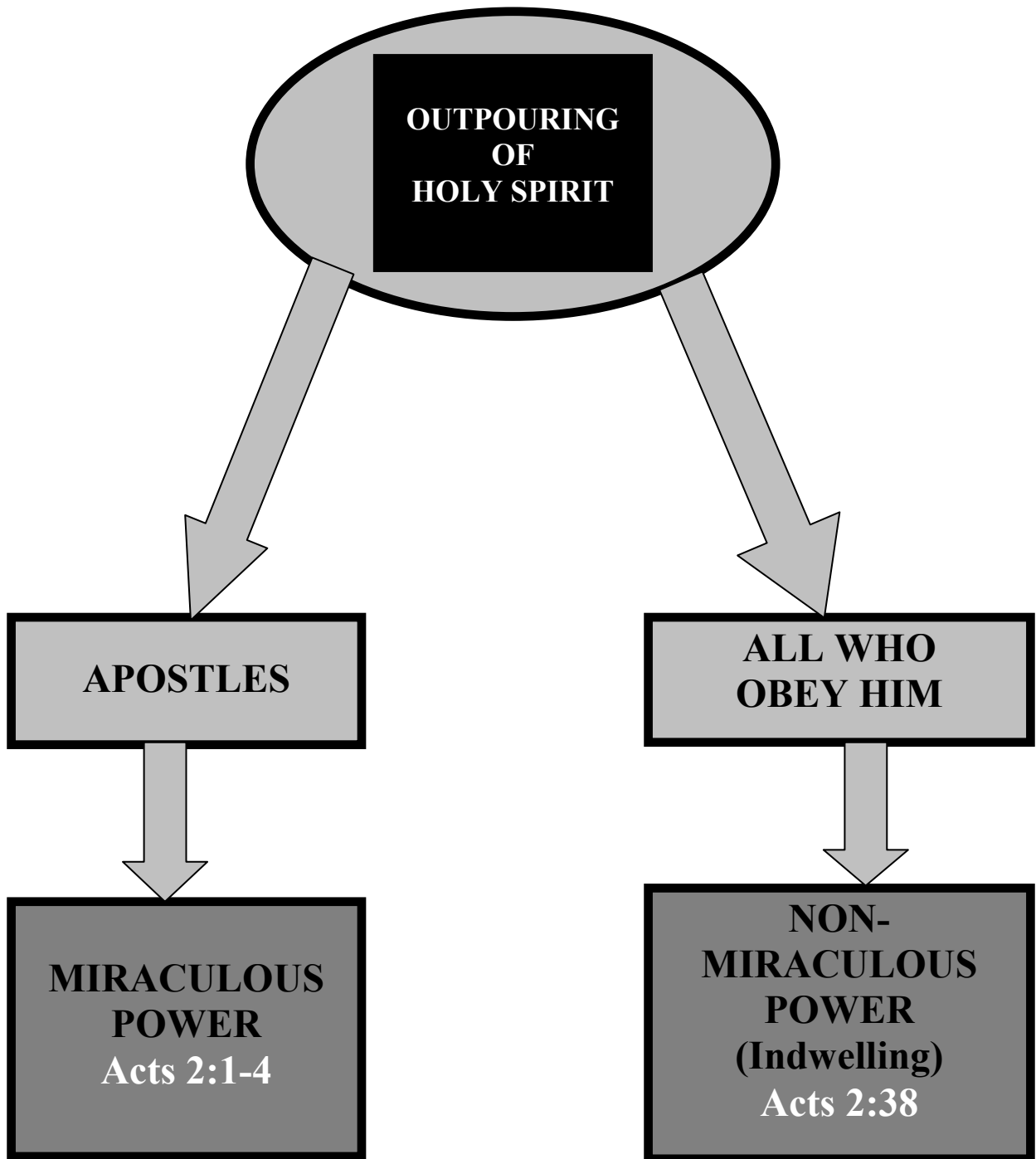
The following questions will help to emphasize the coming of the Holy Spirit, His purpose for coming, the beginning of the church (kingdom), and the conversion of the 3000---all on the day of Pentecost!!

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 2:1-47

- 1. How many days after the Passover did the day of Pentecost occur? (2:1; Leviticus 23:15-16)**
- 2. What visible and audible miraculous events occurred to indicate that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles as Jesus had promised? (2:2-4)**
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - c)
- 3. What power did the Apostles receive? (2:4)**
- 4. Why does God call these Jews devout? (2:5)**

5. What does it mean in the Bible to speak in a tongue? (2:5-13)
6. What did Peter state was the fulfillment of the prophet Joel? (2:16-21) (See Chart #1)
7. How was Jesus shown to be approved of God? (2:22)
8. What evidence did Peter use to prove the resurrection of Jesus? (2:23-32)
9. Upon Jesus' ascension, what did He send back to the Apostles that He had promised? (2:33-35)
10. What was Peter's conclusion about Jesus? (2:36)
11. What were these convicted religious people told to do to have remission of sins? (2:38-40)
12. What gift were they told they would receive in addition to remission of sins? (2:38) (See Chart #2)
13. How many were baptized that day? (2:41)
14. What did they continue steadfast in, and why? (2:42; Matthew 28:20)
15. By whose hands were many wonders and signs done? (2:43)
16. What term was used to identify the new Christians? (2:44)
17. To what were the saved people added daily? (2:47)

Chart #2



Lesson Three

**“THE GOSPEL SPREADS AMONG JEWS
IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM”**

(A. D. 29 (33) to 36 AD)

Text to Read: Acts 3:1-8:4

The Lord was adding daily to the number of saved people through the preaching of the Apostles (Acts 2:47). The numbers were multiplying rapidly: 3000 (Acts 2:41); 5000 men (Acts 4:4); multitudes of men and women (Acts 5:14); disciples multiplied (Acts 6:7). It was a wonderful situation! God’s power was evident among them, great grace was upon them all, and the Apostles were that much more bold to preach the message. Loving, sharing fellowship characterized their meetings together—spiritually and socially. But this was not going to last for long in Jerusalem, for the religious opposition began to build little by little until it erupted into the stoning of Stephen to death and the aggressive persecution begun by Saul of Tarsus that scattered the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:4).

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 3:1-8:4

1. **What gave Peter an opportunity to preach to a large group of Jews again at the Temple? (3:1-12)**
2. **What part did faith play in the beggar’s healing? (3:3-8, 16)**
3. **What proof did Peter give of Jesus’ resurrection? (3:15)**
4. **What did Peter tell these people to do to have their sins blotted out? (3:19)**
5. **What did Moses say would happen to those who would not hearken to this new prophet? (3:20-23)**
6. **What promise did Peter remind them God had made to Abraham? (3:25-26)**
7. **What was the response to the preaching (4:1-4)**
 - a) **By the leaders?--**
 - b) **By the people?--**
8. **How did Peter prove to these rulers that Jesus was truly raised from the dead? (4:10)**
9. **Why is the name of Jesus important? (4:12)**
10. **What was Peter and John’s answer to the Jewish leaders who warned them to stop preaching about Jesus? (4:20)**

11. What happened when the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit? (4:31-33) (See Chart #3) (Please note the word, “Power”)
12. Who alone were performing miracles at this time? (4:33)
13. How did Ananias and Sapphira tempt the Holy Spirit? (5:1-9) (See Chart #4) (Please read also Acts 7:51; 1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30; Gal. 5:18, 25)
14. Were Ananias and Sapphira Christians?
15. Who were still the only ones performing miracles at this time? (5:12)
16. What good resulted from the incident with Ananias and Sapphira? (5:13-16)
17. What did the High Priest say the Apostles had done in their preaching? (5:28)
18. To whom does God give His Holy Spirit? (5:32) (See Chart #2)
19. What did the Apostles continue to do even after being warned? (5:42)
20. In what sense should we understand the term “full of the Holy Spirit” in Acts 6:3-5? (See Chart #3) (Please note the concept of “character”)
21. For what purpose did the Apostles lay hands on these seven men? (6:6, 8, 8:5-6) (See Chart #5) (Please note the word, “power”)
22. Who were obedient to the faith and why? (6:7)
23. How did Stephen’s listeners resist the Holy Spirit? (7:51-53) (See Chart #4)
24. In what sense should we understand Stephen was “full of the Holy Spirit?” (7:55) (See Chart #3) (Please note the concept of “character”)
25. Who were scattered when Saul brought persecution upon the church and who were not scattered? (8:1)
26. What did the scattered Christians do? (8:4)

Chart #3

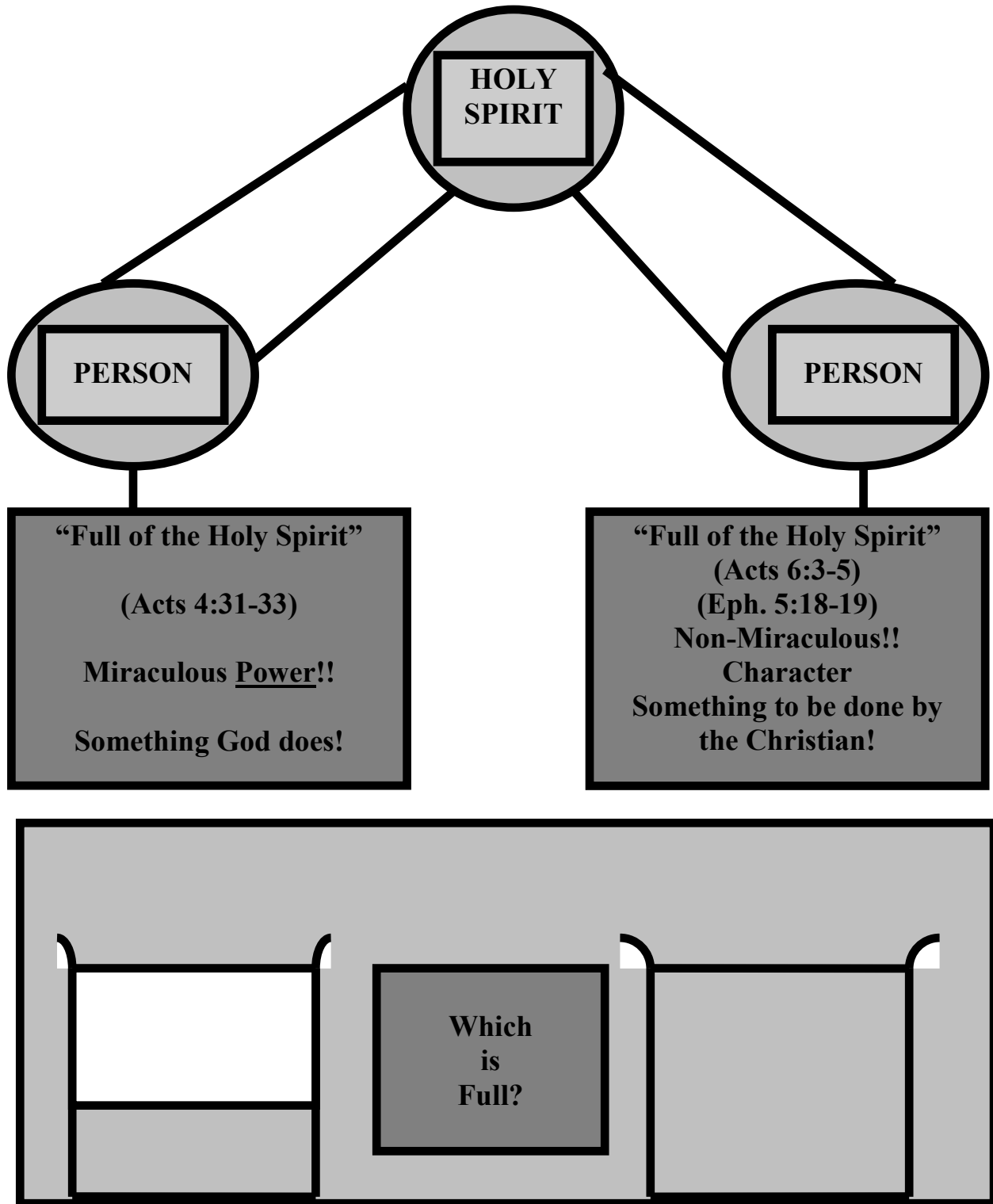


Chart #4

MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

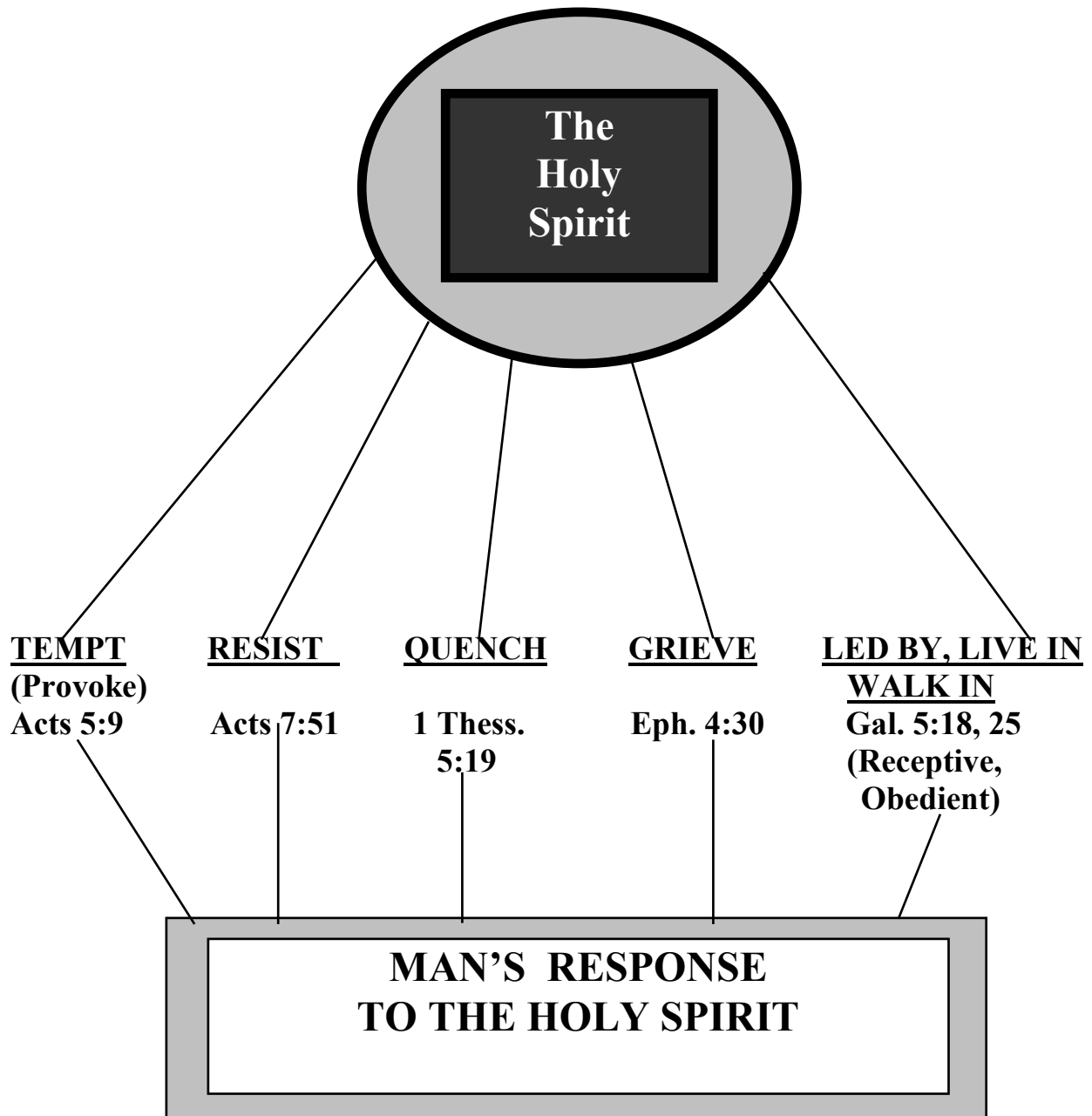
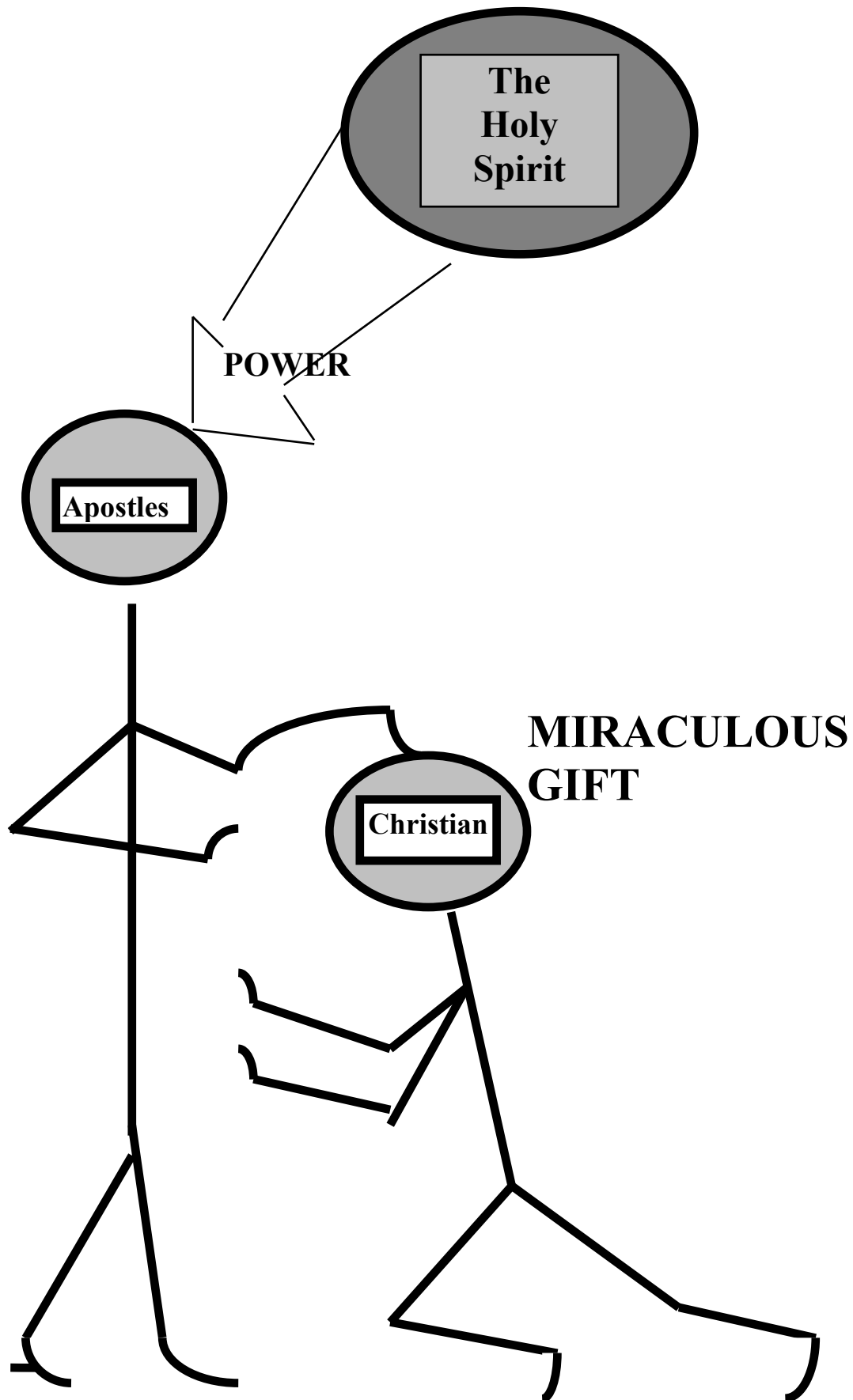


Chart #5



Lesson Four

**“THE GOSPEL SPREADS
THROUGHOUT JUDEA & SAMARIA”
(A. D. 36-39)**

Text to Read: Acts 8:5-9:43

Now that the church was scattered, the Word of the Lord began to be preached everywhere. We have recorded in these two chapters some of the places they preached in Judea and Samaria. In chapter eight, we find the gospel, for the first time, being preached to the Samaritans, who believed and were baptized (8:12). It even records the conversion of a Sorcerer helping to show us what the Christian must do when he sins. We also have recorded an example of the Holy Spirit being given through the laying on of the Apostles' hands. In Acts 6:6, it states that the Apostles laid their hands on the seven men, but does not state, as it does here, that they received the Holy Spirit. But, the facts indicate that Philip and Stephen, and possibly the other five also, were given miraculous gifts (6:8; 8:6).

The conversion of a man of great authority in Ethiopia helped the message to be spread into that country eventually.

The first part of chapter nine records the appearance of the Lord to Saul, the persecutor, so that he could become a special ambassador to the Gentile nations. His conversion followed and resulted in his immediate efforts to preach the Christ he once persecuted. Saul's conversion is one of the most significant ones to help us to see the reality of the resurrection of Jesus and its effect upon the lives of those who believed. Two other accounts are given of Saul's conversion (Acts 22, Acts 26). His conversion occurred in about A. D. 36 (some 7 years after the beginning of the church).

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 8:5-9:43

- 1. Who were the Samaritan people in relationship to the Jews? (8:5; John 4:1-23)**
- 2. What kind of miracles did Philip perform? (8:6-7)**
- 3. What had Simon done to the people of Samaria? (8:9-11)**
- 4. What had Philip preached? (8:12)**
- 5. What was their response? (8:12)**
- 6. What was Simon's response? (8:13)**

7. **Why was Peter and John sent from Jerusalem to Samaria? (8:14-16) (See Chart #6)**
8. **What happened when they laid hands on them? (8:17-19) (See Chart #7)**
9. **Why couldn't Philip have laid his hands on these people and imparted the Holy Spirit? (8:14-17)**
10. **How do we know that laying on of the hands of the Apostles would impart miraculous gifts? (8:13, 18-19)**
11. **What did Simon ask of the Apostles? (8:19)**
12. **What was Peter's reply? (8:20-21)**
13. **What was Simon told to do about his sinful condition of heart? (8:22-24) (Discuss the "Two Laws of Pardon")**
14. **Who directed Philip to preach to the Ethiopian Eunuch? (8:26)**
15. **What was the Eunuch reading and where was it found? (8:28-33)**
16. **Who next told Philip to join himself to the Eunuch's Chariot? (8:29)**
17. **What did Philip preach to the Eunuch? (8:35)**
18. **How do we know that baptism is a part of preaching Jesus? (8:36-39)**
19. **What is indicated here about how baptism is performed? (8:38-39; Rom. 6:4)**
20. **What did the Spirit do with Philip? (8:39)**
21. **What efforts did Saul make in order to further persecute Christians? (9:1-2)**
22. **What caused Saul to fall to the ground? (9:3)**
23. **What did Saul hear? (9:4)**

- 24. How had Paul (Saul) been persecuting Christ? (9:5)**
- 25. What was he told to do? (9:6)**
- 26. Who was sent to Saul to tell him what he must do? (9:10-17)**
- 27. Was Saul saved here on the road to Damascus after having seen the Lord? (9:18; 22:16)**
- 28. How did Saul “call upon the name of the Lord?” (22:16; Rom. 10:13-16)**
- 29. How was Saul (Paul) “filled with the Holy Spirit?” (9:17) (See Chart #8)**
- 30. Why did the Jews try to kill Saul (Paul)? (9:19-24)**
- 31. Did the church at Jerusalem receive Paul (Saul) at first? (9:26-28)**
- 32. Who else wanted to slay Paul? (9:28-29)**
- 33. What caused the people of Lydda and Saron to “turn to the Lord?” (9:32-35)**
- 34. What caused many to believe in Joppa? (9:36-42)**

Chart #6

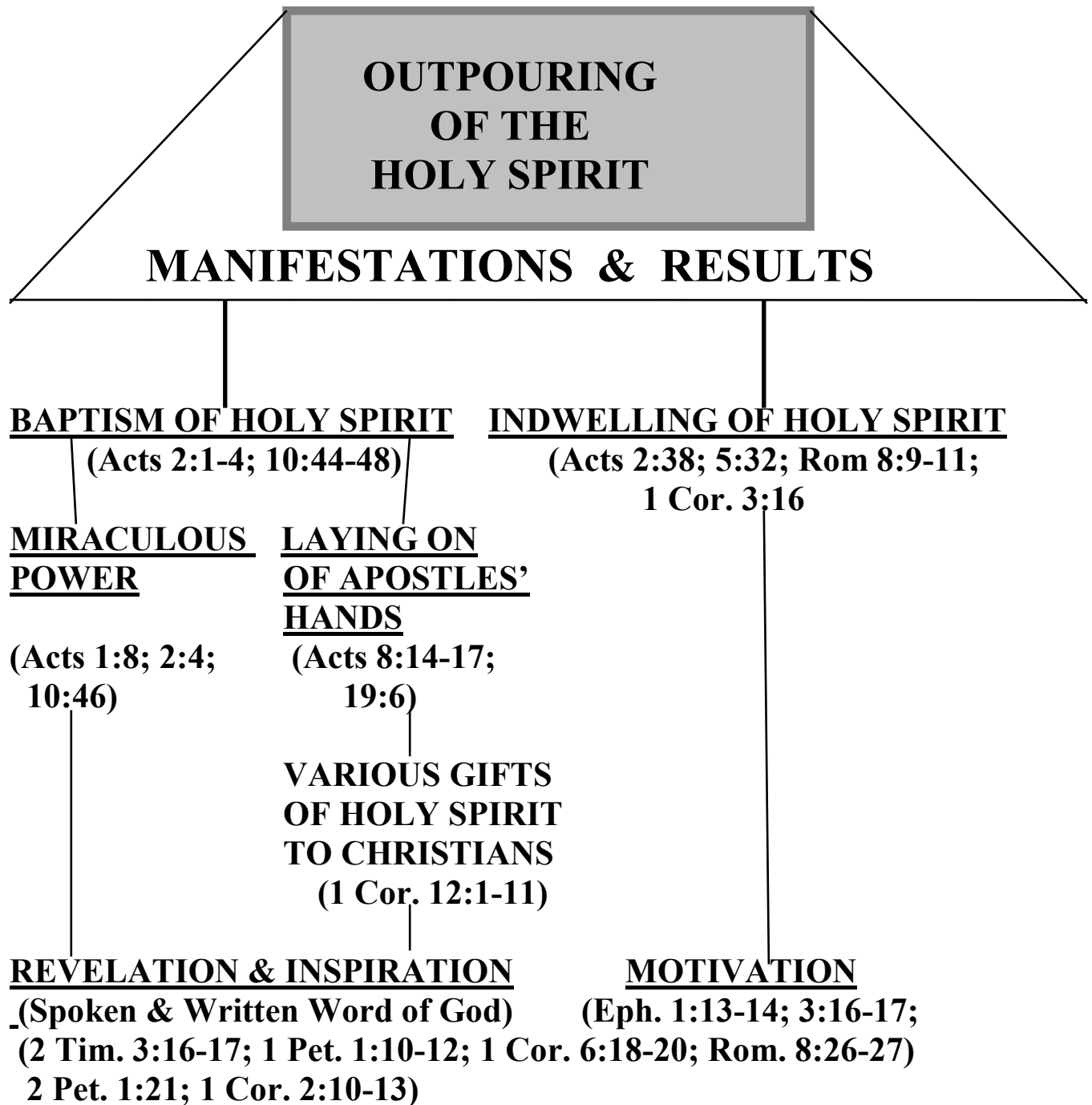
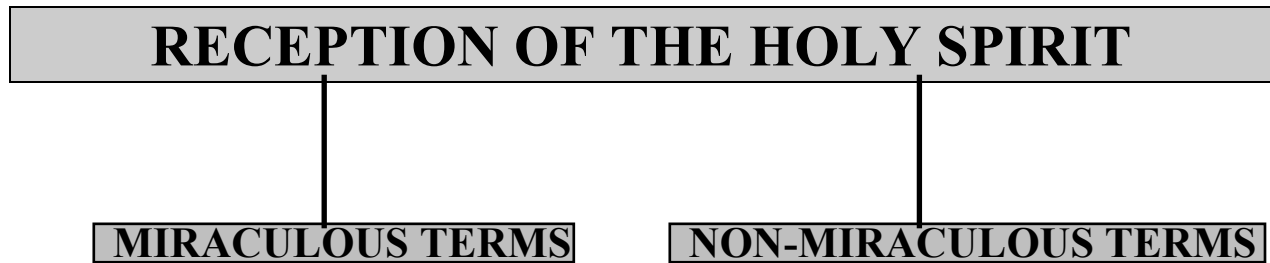


Chart #7



1. Come upon (Lk. 1:35; Acts 1:8)
2. Come unto (John 16:13)
3. Shed Forth (Sent down) from heaven (Acts 2:33; 1 Pet. 1:12)
4. Fell (Fallen) on (Acts 8:16; 11:15; 10:44)
5. Pour out upon (Acts 10:45; 2:17)
6. Sat upon (Acts 2:3)
7. Descending upon (Lk. 3:22)
8. Anointed with (Acts 10:38)
9. Proceeds from the Father (Jn. 15:26)
10. Baptized with (Acts 1:5; 11:16)
11. Laying on of Apostles' hands (Acts 8:17; 19:6)
12. Send unto (Jn. 16:7)

1. Give to (Lk. 11:13)
2. Sealed with (Eph. 1:13-14)
3. Earnest of inheritance (Eph. 1:13-14)
4. Sent forth into (Gal. 4:6)
5. Made partakers of (Heb. 6:4)
6. Dwell in (Rom. 8:9-11; 2 Tim. 1:14)

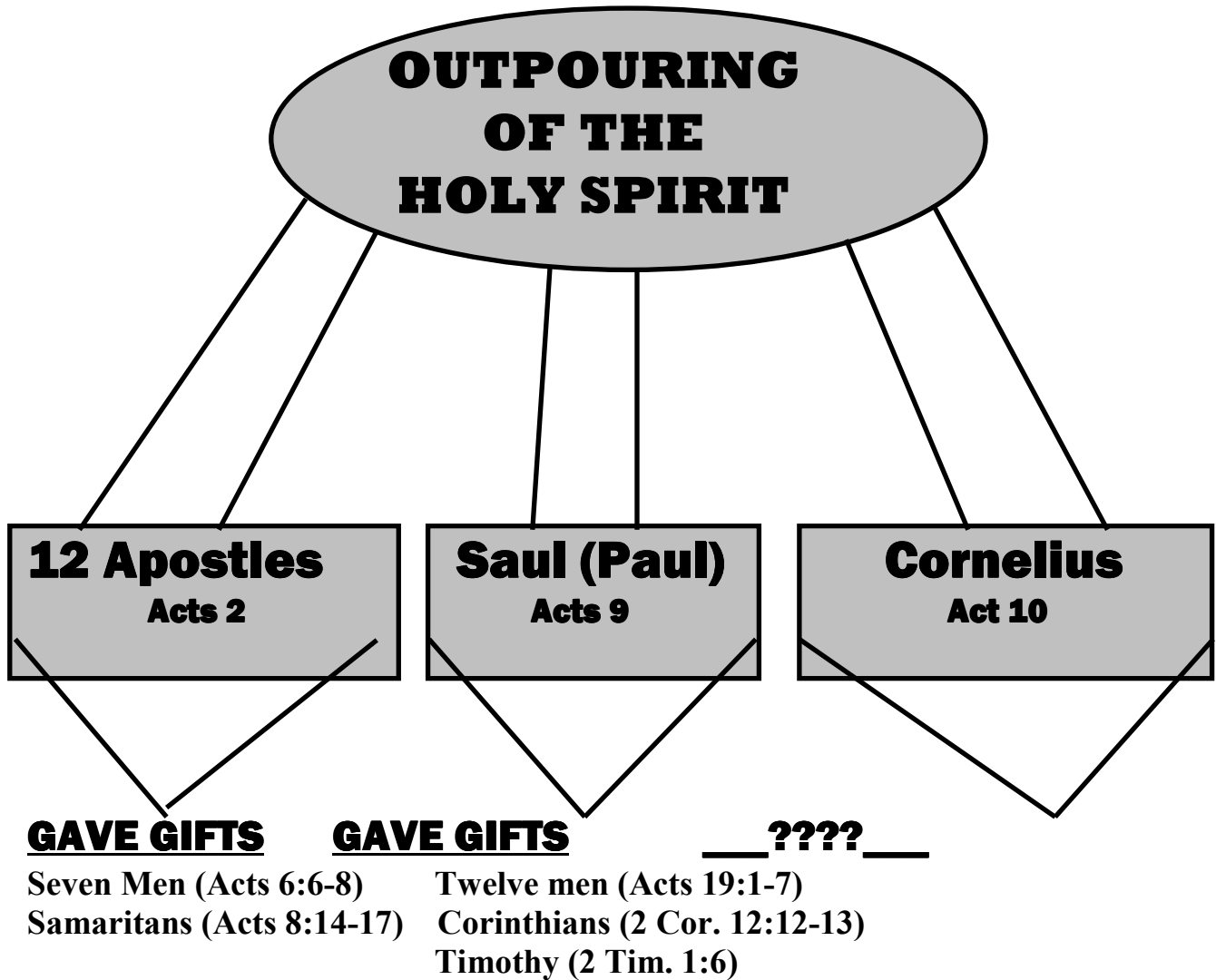
USED BOTH WAYS

1. Given to (1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Thess. 4:8)
2. Like gift (Acts 11:17; 2:38; 5:32; Rom. 5:5)
3. Receive (Acts 8:15, 17; 10:47; 19:2; Rom. 8:15)
4. Ministered to (Gal. 3:5; Gal. 3:5)
5. Filled with (Acts 2:4; Eph. 5:18)
6. Full of (Acts 4:31; Acts 6:3-5; Eph. 5:18)

OBSERVATIONS

1. Some terms are used to refer to both Miraculous and Non-Miraculous reception of the Holy Spirit.
2. The context is usually the best guide to try & determine if the use is miraculous or non-miraculous.
3. The non-miraculous reception of the Holy Spirit is commonly referred to as the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian.

Chart #8



Lesson Five

**“THE GENTILES HEAR
AND RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL”**

(A. D. 41)

Text to Read: Acts 10:1-11:18

Now that the Gospel was being spread to Jews scattered over the world, it was necessary for Gentiles to be given the same opportunity. God chose Peter to be the one to first preach to the Gentiles. It took three miracles to get the preacher and hearers together and to convince the Jewish believers that God wanted the Gentiles to be saved also: (1) An angel appeared to Cornelius and told him to send for Peter; (2) Peter was given a vision and told to go with the men inquiring of him; (3) the Holy Spirit fell on the household of Cornelius and they spoke in tongues. It was quite a shock to the Jewish believers that went with Peter, but they concluded correctly that God wanted the Gentiles to be saved as well as the Jews. They were told to do the same thing to be saved as the Jews had been told. With the outpouring of God’s Spirit upon the Gentiles here, as it was on Pentecost with the Jews, Joel’s prophecy had been completed. Acts 11:1-18 was Peter’s report back to the brethren in Jerusalem of what had taken place with the Gentiles.

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 10:1-11:18

- 1. How is Cornelius described? (10:1-2)**

- 2. What did the angel tell Cornelius to do? (10:3-6)**

- 3. What was Peter’s vision and what did it mean? (10:9-16, 34-35)**

- 4. What did the Spirit tell Peter to do? (10:19-20)**

- 5. What had Cornelius done to prepare for Peter’s coming? (10:24)**

6. What did Cornelius do when Peter came in and what was Peter's response? (10:25-26)

7. What did Cornelius tell Peter that they wanted to hear? (10:33)

8. How is God no respecter of persons? (10:34-35)

9. What was Peter's message to them? (10:36-42)

10. Who should receive remission of sins? (10:43)

11. What unusual event occurred while Peter was preaching? (10:44-46) (See Chart #9)

12. What did this cause among those believers who came with Peter? (10:45)

13. What miraculous powers were given to the Gentiles from the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? (10:46)

14. What were they commanded to do to be saved? (10:47-48)

15. Who objected to what Peter had done with the Gentiles? (11:1-3)

16. How many Jewish brethren accompanied Peter to the house of Cornelius? (11:12)

17. For what reason had the angel told Cornelius to send for Peter? (11:13-14)

18. What connection did Peter make when the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles? (11:15-16)

19. What is "the beginning" Peter referred to? (11:15; Acts 2:1-4)

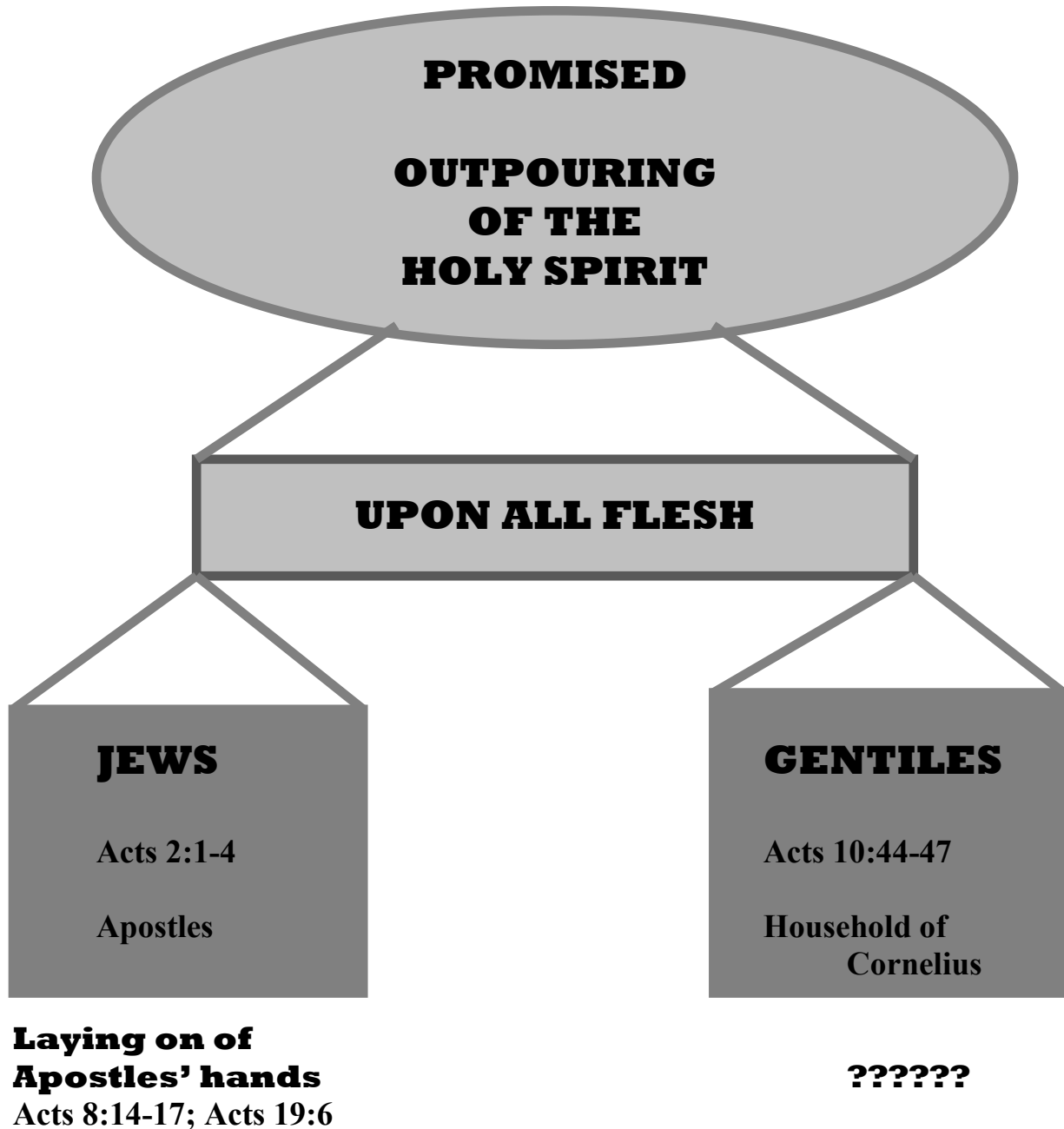
20. What conclusion did they draw from all of this? (11:17-18)

21. Did Cornelius receive the same benefits as the Apostles when the Holy Spirit fell on him? (10:44-47; 8:14-17) (See Chart #8)

Chart #9

JOEL'S PROPHECY (B.C. 800)

Joel 2:28-32



Lesson Six

“THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO ANTIOCH”

(A. D. 42-44)

Text To Read: Acts 11:19-12:25

When the Christians were scattered upon the persecution by Saul, the Gospel was primarily being preached only to the Jews (11:19). But gradually, as the people came to Antioch, they began speaking to Grecians. When the church at Jerusalem heard of the great success in preaching at Antioch, they sent Barnabas up to help to encourage and strengthen them. It was during this time that Barnabas got Saul to come from Tarsus and work with him at Antioch. The work grew rapidly, was stabilized, and it was here that the name Christian was first worn by the disciples of Jesus (11:26). During this time, back in Jerusalem, Herod began to persecute the church by imprisoning and killing some of its leaders. Peter barely escapes death and is enabled to continue preaching elsewhere. Herod’s own horrible death ended his persecution.

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 11:19-12:25

- 1. To where had the Gospel been preached to this time? (11:19)**
- 2. What was the response among the Grecians to the Gospel? (11:20-21)**
- 3. Why did the Jerusalem church send Barnabas up to Antioch? (11:22-23)**
- 4. In what sense was Barnabas “full of the Holy Spirit and faith?” (11:24; Acts 6:3-4) (Note: Character) (See Chart #3)**
- 5. Why were the disciples called Christians first at Antioch? (11:26; Isaiah 62:2)**
- 6. How did Agabus signify by the Spirit about a great dearth? (11:27-28) (See charts #5, #6)**
- 7. To whom did the brethren send relief and who handled it? (11:29-30)**
- 8. How was James killed? (12:2)**

- 9. Is the word “Easter” a proper translation? (12:4)**

- 10. How did the church show concern for Peter? (12:5)**

- 11. Who released Peter? (12:6-9)**

- 12. In whose home were the church members meeting and praying? (12:12)**

- 13. To where did Peter go? (12:17-19)**

- 14. Why did Herod die a horrible death? (12:22-23)**

- 15. What happened to the growth of the church? (12:24)**

- 16. Who did Barnabas and Saul take back with them to Antioch? (12:25)**

Lesson Seven

“THE GOSPEL SPREADS INTO ASIA MINOR”

(A. D. 44-50)

Text to Read: Acts 13:1-14:28

The record that Luke is giving in his inspired history of the church now turns and “keys in on” the work of Saul (Paul). Luke indicates, as the writer, that he joins the group with Paul on his later journeys. Chapter thirteen is a record of the first journey to carry the Gospel beyond Antioch into Asia Minor. Barnabas and John Mark are also with Paul as he begins. New churches are established in the mid-section of the Asia Minor continent: Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe. It was at Lystra that Paul was almost stoned to death. The group felt needful to go back through the cities where they had established churches and strengthen them—and also appoint elders to oversee the churches. After completing their tour, they set sail back to Antioch and reported to the church on the progress of the gospel. It is possible that during this period of time the book of James could have been written and began to be circulated (A.D. 48). James’ death came in A.D. 62, so the book could not have been written later than this date. It is possibly the first New Testament book written!

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 13:1-14:28

- 1. Did the church at Antioch have men with miraculous gifts? (13:1-3) (Eph. 4:11-16)**
- 2. For what purpose did the disciples lay hands on Saul and Barnabas? (13:3)**
- 3. What role did the Holy Spirit play in all of this? (13:2, 4)**
- 4. What role did John Mark play with Paul & Barnabas? (13:5)**
- 5. With what success did they preach at Paphos? (13:6-12)**
- 6. Did Paul have miraculous powers? (13:9-11) (See Chart #8)**
- 7. When did John Mark leave the group? (13:13)**
- 8. For how long did Paul say God gave the Israelites Judges? (13:20)**
- 9. Of whose seed was the Savior to come? (13:22-23)**

10. What proof did Paul give of the resurrection of Jesus? (13:30-37)
11. What was the reaction to Paul's preaching? (13:42-43)
12. What caused the Jews to speak against the things spoken by Paul the next Sabbath? (13:44-45)
13. How did these Jews judge themselves unworthy of eternal life? (13:46)
14. How were these Gentiles ordained to eternal life? (13:48)
15. In what sense were the disciples filled with the Holy Spirit? (13:52) (See Chart #3)
16. What kind of response to the Gospel was seen at Iconium? (14:1-2)
17. Who did signs and wonders? (14:3)
18. Where did they go next to preach? (14:6-8)
19. What two gods did the people of Lystra take Paul and Barnabas for? (14:8-12)
20. What had God done for the nations that served as a witness of Himself? (14:15-17)
21. Who helped to stone Paul? (14:19)
22. What did they ordain in all the churches? (14:23)
23. What qualifications do men need to meet before being appointed as an elder? (Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
24. In what sense had God opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles? (14:27)
25. For how long did Paul & Barnabas stay in Antioch? (14:28)

Lesson Eight

“THE PROBLEM OF JUDAISERS DEALT WITH”

(A. D. 50)

Text to Read: Acts 15:1-35; Galatians 2:1-10

With the introduction of Gentiles into the church, a great number of questions began to be raised by the strong Jewish element in the church. It was primarily with reference to association with Gentiles and whether they were to be taught circumcision and the Law. Brethren from Judea confronted the Gentiles at Antioch with the necessity of being circumcised and keeping the Law to be saved (15:5), while Paul and Barnabas refused for such to be bound on Gentile Christians. The church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas up to Jerusalem to get the matter settled with the elders and the apostles. Titus also went along with Paul (Galatians 2:1). Paul indicated that he went up by revelation (Galatians 2:2). The outcome of the meeting was very good and it made very clear that the Gentiles had no need to be circumcised or to come under the Law of Moses. Their justification was by faith in Christ, not by works of the Jewish Law (Galatians 2:16).

Paul even warned that to go back under the Law to be justified was to depart from their means of grace through Christ (Galatians 5:1-4). A letter was sent back up to Antioch along with messengers, Judas and Silas, to confirm the outcome of their meeting. Paul and Barnabas continued on for a while at Antioch.

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 15:1-35

- 1. Who came down from Judea to Antioch teaching the necessity of circumcision to be saved? (15:1, 5)**
- 2.**
- 3. Who were primarily involved in helping to solve this matter? (15:6, 28)**

- 3. Who spoke first and what was his conclusion? (15:7-11)**

- 4. By what was Cornelius and his house purified? (15:9)**

- 5. Who spoke next? (15:12)**

- 6. Who finalized the discussion? (15:13-21)**

7. What rules were to be laid upon the Gentile Christians? (15:20)
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
8. To whom was this letter addressed? (15:23)
9. What two men were also sent with Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch? (15:27)
10. What part did the Holy Spirit play in this conclusion? (15:28) (See Chart #6)
11. Who decided to stay on at Antioch? (15:34)

Lesson Nine

“THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO EUROPE”

(A. D. 50-53)

Text to Read: Acts 15:36-18:22

After some stay in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas decided to go out again on a missionary journey. However, because of strong differences in judgment, they go their separate ways: Paul taking Silas, Barnabas taking John Mark. Paul and Silas traveled through Syria and Cilicia confirming the churches and then on to the province of Galatia. While at Lystra, Timothy was added to the work force of the group, but was encouraged to be circumcised by Paul because all the Jews knew his father was a Greek, and that would hinder his work among the Jews. When the mission team arrived at Troas, Paul had a vision of a man in Macedonia calling him to come to the continent of Europe to preach. Several churches were established: Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth. Their efforts to preach and baptize people into Christ were met with mixed feelings at these places. However, strong works were established in most of these cities. It was during his stay in Corinth that we believe Paul wrote the two letters to the church at Thessalonica (A.D. 52-53). After staying at Corinth for eighteen months, they returned to Antioch and spent some time there again.

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 15:36-18:22

- 1. What things are said about Timothy? (16:1-2)**
- 2. What indication is given of the growth of churches that Paul was visiting among? (16:5)**
- 3. Who forbade them to preach in Asia (province) and Bithynia (province)? (16:6-7)**
- 4. Why did Paul go out by the riverside at Philippi? (16:11-13)**
- 5. How did the Lord open Lydia’s heart? (16:14)**
- 6. What did she do? (16:14-15)**
- 7. Who would her household include? (16:15)**
- 8. Who indicated that Paul and company were servants of the Most High God? (16:16-17)**

9. How did Paul cast out the evil spirit? (16:18)
10. What did Paul and Silas do at midnight in jail? (16:25)
11. Why did the jailer ask: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (16:30)
12. What all would Paul’s answer in verse 31 include? (16:31-34)
13. Why did Paul want to be released publicly? (16:35-40)
14. What Scriptures did Paul use as he preached to the Jews at Thessalonica? (17:1-3)
15. What results was seen from this teaching? (17:4)
16. What did the unbelieving Jews do? (17:5-9)
17. How did the Bereans react to the preached word? (17:10-11)
18. What was the results? (17:12)
19. Who abode at Berea when Paul left? (17:14)
20. What was Paul’s reaction as he walked through the streets of Athens? (17:16)
21. Where did Paul have an opportunity to speak to the Philosophers in Athens? (17:18-19)
22. How did Paul describe the true God? (17:23-29)
23. What did Paul say the Athenians must do? (17:30)
24. What did his preaching result into? (17:34)

25. Who joined Paul at Corinth? (18:5)

26. What was the Jews' reactions to Paul's preaching at Corinth? (18:6)

27. Who baptized the Corinthians? (18:8; 1 Cor. 1:14-16)

28. Who sailed with Paul to Ephesus? (18:18-19)

29. Why did Paul not continue preaching in Ephesus? (18:19-21)

Lesson Ten

**“CONTINUED SPREAD OF GOSPEL
INTO ASIA MINOR AND EUROPE”**

(A. D. 53-58)

Text to Read: Acts 18:23-21:17

While Paul was successful in enlarging the borders of the kingdom, the Judaising brethren were still trying to follow him up in Asia Minor and undermine his and others' efforts among the Gentiles. Upon returning to Antioch, news had reached Paul of their efforts and he knew it would be a while before he could get there; so, a letter was sent on ahead to the churches of Galatia. The letter is believed by some to have been written about A. D. 53 just before Paul set out again on his third journey. As he began this journey, he went through Galatia and Phrygia strengthening the churches. Before Paul could get back to Ephesus, Aquilla and Priscilla had helped to straighten out the preaching of Apollos and sent a letter of recommendation of him to the churches in Achaia. When Paul came to Ephesus, he found twelve disciples who probably had been taught by Apollos or one like him and had to be further taught about Jesus and baptized in the name of Jesus. Paul continued to teach in Ephesus for over two years and much of the time this teaching was done in the school of a man by the name of Tyrannus, and as a result all Asia heard the word. Great results came from this preaching to the extent that it brought on efforts of fierce persecution. Paul soon after left and set sail for Corinth where he stayed for about three months. He then began his return trip back to home base. When he got to Miletus, he called the elders of the church at Ephesus together and gave strong words of warning and encouragement. Then, he continued his journey until he came to Jerusalem.

While Paul was in the city of Ephesus, he wrote the first Corinthian letter(A. D. 56). While at Philippi (probably) he wrote the second Corinthian letter (A. D. 57). And while at Corinth, he wrote the letter to the Roman brethren (A.D. 58).

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 18:23-21:17

- 1. Who was Apollos? (18:24-25)**
- 2. What does it mean, “knowing only the Baptism of John?” (18:25)**
- 3. How did Aquilla and Priscilla correct him and what did he do? (18:26)**
- 4. To where did Apollos go? (18:27)**

5. **Why did Paul ask the twelve disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed? (19:2) (See Chart #6)**

6. **What had they been taught? (19:3)**

7. **Why were they baptized again? (19:4-5)**

8. **Why did Paul lay hands on them? (19:6) (See Chart #5)**

9. **What disciples did he separate from the Jews? (19:9)**

10. **Where did Paul preach for two years? (19:9-10)**

11. **What kind of miracles were wrought by Paul? (19:11-17)**

12. **What indications of repentance was shown by many? (19:18-19)**

13. **Where had Paul made a decision to go? (19:21)**

14. **Who was sent ahead of him into Macedonia? (19:22)**

15. **Who brought persecution against the church and why? (19:24-34)**

16. **How did the town clerk reason with these people? (19:35-41)**

17. **Where did Paul go next and stay for three months? (20:1-3)**

18. **Who all were travelers with Paul? (20:4)**

19. **What is significant about Paul staying for 7 days at Troas? (20:6-7)**

Lesson Eleven

“PAUL’S EFFORTS TO PREACH IN PALESTINE”

(A. D. 58-60)

Text to Read: Acts 21:18-26:32

Paul had finished his third missionary journey and was now in the city of Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had told him that bonds awaited him here, but he was not deterred from his plans to bring a great deal of money for the poor saints in Jerusalem that he had collected among the Gentile churches (2 Corinthians 9:1-15). This was his way of bringing both Jew and Gentile together in the church. His efforts to speak before various groups all ended in failure and finally brought imprisonment by the chief captain and then sent to stand before the Roman Governor, Felix, at Caesarea. Paul stayed there for about two years speaking before Felix, Festus and Agrippa. Seeing that he would get no satisfaction from them, he made his appeal as a Roman citizen to take his case before Caesar in Rome. Luke seems to have been with Paul during this time and may have used the time to talk to a lot of people who knew Jesus and the events during his public ministry that led to the writing of the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:1-4). This would date the Gospel of Luke about A. D. 60.

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 21:18-26:32

- 1. What was the results of Paul’s recounting of his success among the Gentiles? (21:18-20)**
- 2. What problem was James concerned about that he thought Paul could help with? (21:20-25)**
- 3. What did Paul do? (21:26)**
- 4. What happened when some Jews who knew Paul saw him? (21:27-29)**
- 5. Who rescued Paul from being beaten? (21:31-36)**
- 6. Why did the chief captain allow Paul to speak to the Jews? (21:37-40)**
- 7. What had Ananias told Paul to do to have his sins washed away? (22:16)**
- 8. How did Paul use his Roman Citizenship? (22:25-29)**

9. How did Paul show respect for the High Priest? (23:1-5)
10. What did Paul say that caused division among his accusers? (23:6-10)
11. How did Paul know he would go to Rome? (23:11)
12. What caused the chief captain to send Paul to Caesarea? (23:12-35)
13. What was Felix's reaction to Paul's defense? (24:10-23)
14. What was Felix's reaction to Paul's preaching? (24:24-26)
15. Why did Felix leave Paul in prison when he left? (24:27)
16. What caused Paul to appeal to Caesar for judgment? (25:9-12)
17. How knowledgeable was Agrippa? (26:1-3)
18. Why did the Lord appear to Saul? (26:16-18)
19. What was the results of Paul's sermon to Agrippa? (26:27-28)

Lesson Twelve

**“PAUL’S EFFORTS TO PREACH
ON THE WAY TO AND IN ROME”**

(A. D. 60-63)

Text to Read: Acts 27:1-28:31

Because of his appeal to stand before Caesar, Paul was sent to Rome by boat with a guard. In the course of their journey the ship was wrecked by a bad storm, and as a result Paul was given an opportunity to preach to the people on the isle of Melita, performing miracles of healing that brought a responsive kindness on the part of the island people. After three months their journey was continued, and they came to the city of Rome. Here Paul was allowed his own hired house while he awaited his trial. During this time he preached to the Jews and Gentiles as he had opportunity.

Paul wrote four letters while in prison at Rome for two years: Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, Colossians (A.D. 62-63). It is also believed that Luke probably wrote the book of Acts at the end of Paul’s imprisonment (A. D. 63). It is possible that Paul was released from his imprisonment, but was later imprisoned again and martyred in the year of 67 A. D. by being beheaded outside the city of Rome.

QUESTIONS ON ACTS 27:1-28:31

- 1. Who was with Paul on the trip as a companion? (27:2)**
- 2. What word of comfort did Paul give to the people on the ship in the terrible storm? (27:22-25)**
- 3. How many were on the ship? (27:37)**
- 4. What act caused the island people to believe Paul was a murderer? (28:3-6)**
- 5. Who did Paul heal? (28:8-10)**
- 6. Who met Paul as they traveled to Rome? (28:15)**
- 7. What was the results of Paul’s speaking to the chief of the Jews in Rome? (28:17-22)**

- 8. Did the Jews believe? (28:24)**

- 9. What did Paul quote from Isaiah about those who did not believe? (28:25-27)**

- 10. How long was Paul in Rome? (28:30-31)**

- 11. Were the miraculous gifts of the Spirit to cease? (1 Corinthians 13:9-10) (See Charts #10, #11)**

- 12. After the last Apostle died, who could lay hands on people to impart the gifts? (Ephesians 4:4-6) (See Chart #12)**

- 13. Why did Paul say he wanted to go to Rome? (Romans 1:11-12)**

Chart #10

MIRACULOUS GIFTS WILL CEASE
(1 Corinthians 13:8-13—A.D. 56)

Miraculous Gifts:

- 1 - Speaking in Tongues
- 2 - Prophecy
- 3 - Knowledge

“Partial”

When the “Perfect”
Comes

Done
Away

2nd Coming of
Christ

Responsibilities of Man:

- 1. Faith ————— Abides —————>
- 2. Hope ————— Abides —————>
- 3. Love ————— Abides —————> Continues —————>

Stops

Chart #11

CEASING OF GIFTS!
(1 Corinthians 13:9-10)

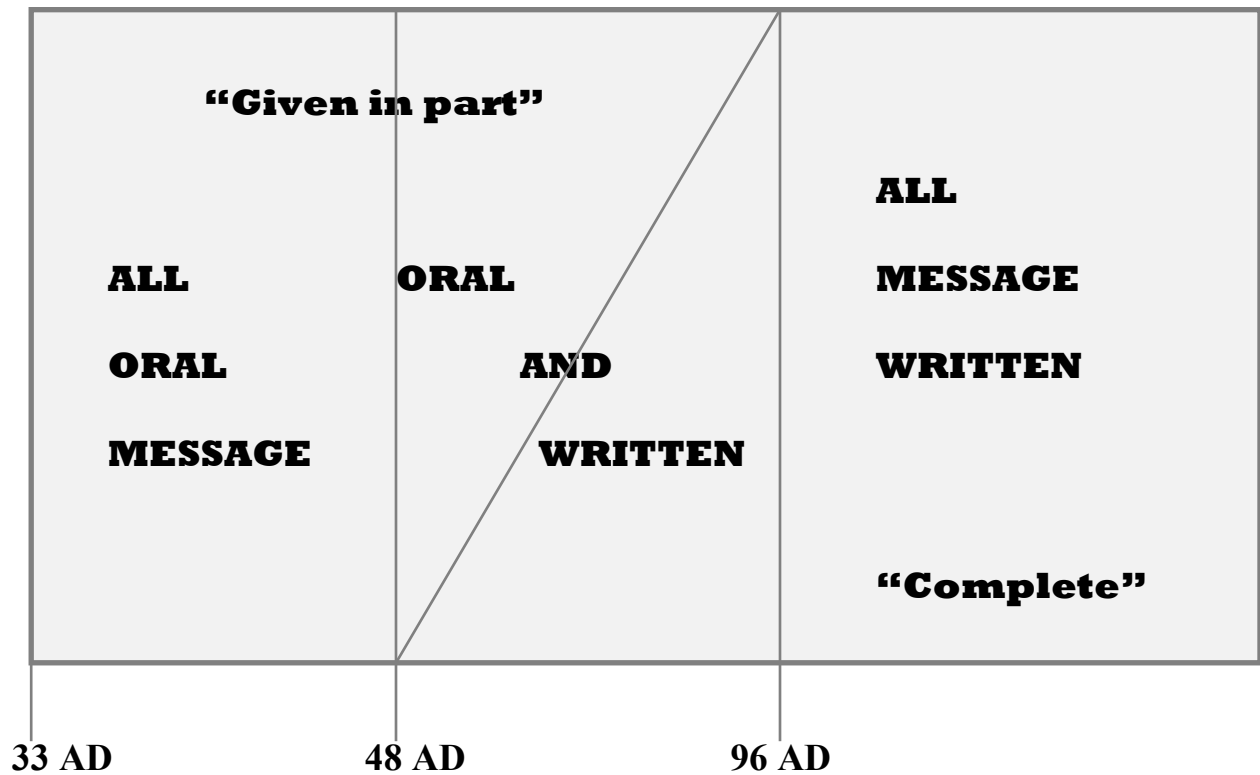
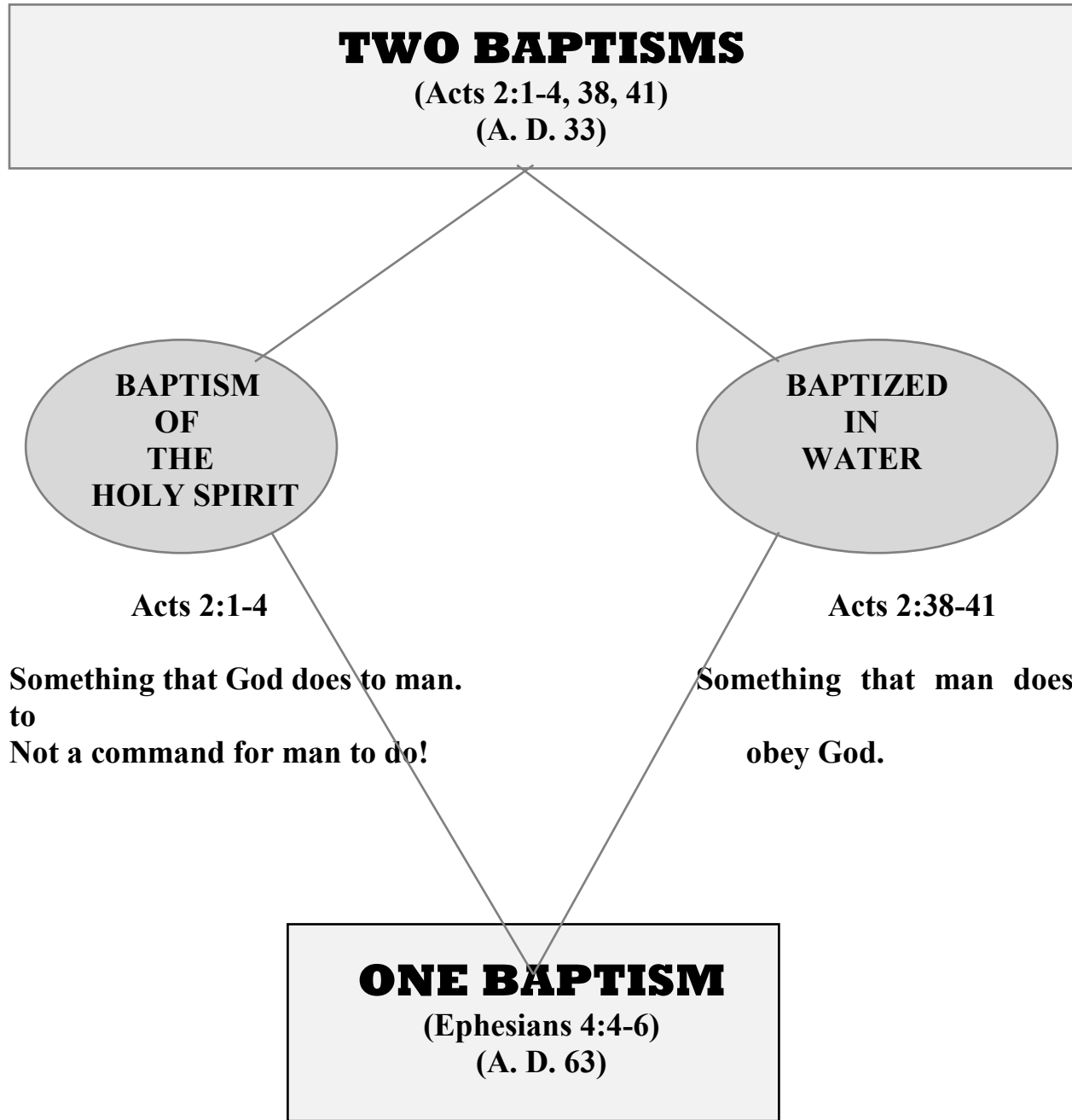


Chart #12



Which One of the Above Baptisms Ceased

