



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of Acts 1:1-5: 12-14; 2:1, 1 Kings 18: 41-45.

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

Preparing For Victory

We were thankful to have **Dan Hyde**, Associational Missionary with the Northwest Georgia and Lookout Valley Baptist Association teach this past Sunday. Dan is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He has pastored churches in the states of Tennessee and Georgia. He has been in gospel ministry for thirty-six years. We are thankful for his service to the Lord!

When you know God has called you to wait, obey, or pray, which one is usually hardest for you—and why?

Acts 1:1-5 ***They prepared by obeying Jesus***

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2** until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the

Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying^[a] 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^[a] the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (ESV)

God doesn't bless disobedience. He blesses obedience.

"God doesn't need to provide the resources for what you are unwilling to obey Him for." Richard Blackaby

Adrian Rogers called his sermon series on Acts, "Old-Time Religion" emphasizing "that we need to take a look back, that we might really face the future. And it's very important that we do this today, because it is the Old-Time Religion that needs to be the New-Time Religion. I heard that Billy Graham had come to a particular city some time ago—he was supposed to come for a revival crusade, and there was a preacher who didn't want him to come. The preacher said, "We don't want that man here in our city. Why, he will set evangelism back fifty years." When Billy Graham heard that, he said, "Well, I didn't want to set evangelism back fifty years; I wanted to set it back two thousand years." Amen? That's what we need to do—get back to the basics." - www.preceptaustin.org

What does it look like in everyday life to 'prepare' for what God wants to do?

"Is God's Spirit writing the next chapter of the book of Acts in and through my life?"-Ray Stedman

Acts 1:12 -14 **They prepared by praying**

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (ESV)

NOTE: John MacArthur adds that according to tradition, a Sabbath's day journey is derived "from Israel's encampments during the forty years of wilderness wanderings. The farthest tents were held to have been 2,000 cubits from the tabernacle, although Scripture nowhere specifies that distance. Since work was prohibited on the Sabbath, the farthest anyone would need to travel was the 2,000 cubits to the tabernacle to worship. Consequently, a Sabbath day's journey became synonymous with 2,000 cubits."

Jack Arnold on the upper room - There was an "upper room" in almost all the homes in the city of Jerusalem, especially in the homes of the wealthy and prominent. It was a large room used for religious gatherings (prayer and devotion), family gatherings and it was the place where the dead were laid before burial for viewing (Acts 9:36, 37; 20:7,8). It may have been like our modern-day basement or recreation room. www.preceptaustin.org

**When have you seen prayer help prepare your heart for something God was doing?
Where are the tears for the lost?
Where are we crying out to God for His glory? For revival at First Baptist?
How is your quiet time with God?**

Acts 2:1 **They prepared by persevering.**

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with **one accord** in one place. (KJV)

The disciples did not know exactly what was coming, but they obeyed and waited together. What helps you stay faithful when you do not know the full plan?

R. C. Sproul told an interesting story of a minister who was talking with a parishioner at a church picnic, who rarely came to church and rarely got involved in anything. The minister questioned him on why he wasn't in church faithfully and the answer he got was, "I really don't need the church because my faith is personal and private and I worship God on my own." The minister walked over to the grill and took one piece of charcoal off the pile with a pair of tongs and set it off by itself. Within a matter of minutes that one piece of charcoal had lost its heat and its ability to do what it was supposed to do. The rest of the burning coals were getting the job done, but the isolated coal accomplished nothing. We need the corporate support of each other that comes through the church. We need corporate fellowship. We need to pray as a group and study as a group if we are to accomplish what God wants us to accomplish. Go out on your own and you will probably fall flat on your face. But link yourself to the group who loves the Lord

and the Word of God, and you can burn bright for God. That point is seen right here in this first part of the book of Acts.

Then ***persevering*** with prayer!

1 Kings 18:41-45

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees.

43 And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times.

44 And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'"

45 And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel

There had been no rain for **three and a half years**. He prayed seven times. Do not stop praying and talking with God. Trust God in all things.

What step of obedience, prayer, or perseverance is God calling you to take this week as you trust Him to bring the victory in His time?

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

*Here are some "Live It Out" ideas based on this week's message's three themes: **obeying Jesus, praying together, and persevering while waiting on God.***

In Our Church

Obey Jesus together by taking seriously what He has already commanded: worship, discipleship, unity, service, generosity, and sharing the gospel. Where do we start this week?

Make prayer the first response, not the last resort—pray before meetings, ministry decisions, outreach efforts, and difficult conversations. How is your Quiet Time going?

Wait faithfully for God's timing instead of forcing results or becoming discouraged when growth, answers, or change takes longer than expected.

Serve with one accord by looking for ways to support the mission of the church rather than focusing only on personal preferences.

In Our Families

Create rhythms of obedience by making Scripture, prayer, forgiveness, and church involvement normal parts of family life. Where do we start this week?

Pray together regularly, even if it is simple—before meals, before school or work, during conflict, or when someone is struggling.

Model patience and perseverance when prayers are not answered immediately or circumstances are hard.

Talk about what God is teaching you, so faith is not only something practiced at church but lived out at home.

In Our Workplaces

Obey Christ through integrity—be honest, dependable, humble, and respectful, even when it costs you. You are an Ambassador for Christ in your workplace.

Pray for coworkers and opportunities to show the love of Jesus through your attitude, words, and actions.

Persevere with faithfulness when work is stressful, unnoticed, or difficult. Colossians 3:23.

Represent Jesus well by being patient, gracious, hardworking, and willing to encourage others. Be a good-named worker.

In Our Community

Look for ways to serve others as a visible expression of the gospel—neighbors, schools, local ministries, the hurting, and the overlooked. Where do we start this week?

Pray for our community by name—leaders, families, schools, first responders, churches, and those who need hope.

Be present and consistent, not just showing up when it is convenient, but persevering in love over time. Make room on your calendar.

Share the good news naturally by building relationships, showing compassion, and being ready to explain the hope we have in Christ.

We live this message out when we obey what Jesus has already said, pray together with expectant hearts, and persevere faithfully while trusting God to bring the victory in His time.

Remember:

"We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it." R.C. Sproul

"The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it's also about changing HOW you will live today." Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot "come after" Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus' ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.