

# Abide in Me

**John 15:4**  
*Bible studies for disciples  
who make disciples*



Volume 8 - Number 1

The Week of October 2, 2022

*Telling the Truth*  
**Our Core Message**  
Acts 2:14-40

We are living in a time of great confusion. Amid such confusion, a lot of voices are advising Christians to speak out on a whole range of issues. However, when things are confusing we need to boil our message down to its essence. What is the essential message of our faith?

The book of Acts is the record of what Jesus continued to do through the power of the Holy Spirit after He returned to heaven. It also includes twenty-eight sermons, preached mostly by Peter and Paul, which constitute one-third of the entire book. Altogether, these sermons represent a remarkable collection of apostolic preaching. In this series, we will look closely at eight of them. We need to hear again the message preached by the Apostles so that we know what we ought to pass on to this generation and the next. In this first study, we will look at the sermon Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost.

## READING PETER'S SERMON

As you read the passage, mark it up accordingly:

- Bracket how Peter addresses his audience in verses 14, 22, and 29.
- Double underline the phrase *in the last days* in v. 17.
- Place a parenthesis around the phrase *But this is what* in v. 16.
- Circle *Jesus of Nazareth* in verse 22 and *this Jesus* in verses 23 and 36.
- Inside the left margin of verses 17-21 write Joel 2:28-32.
- Inside the left margin of verses 25-28 write Psalm 16:8-11.
- Inside the left margin of verses 34-35 write Psalm 110:1.
- Underline *you crucified* in verses 23 and 36.

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;  
18 even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.  
19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

20 the sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

22 “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— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;  
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
my flesh also will dwell in hope.  
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One see corruption.  
28 You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

29 “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 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. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,  
35 until I make your enemies your footstool.”

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

37 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?” 38 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. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

## EXPLORING PETER’S SERMON TOGETHER

1. Like a good reporter, begin by getting an overview of this extraordinary day by filling in the following details:

- Who:
- What:
- When:
- Where:
- How:
- Why:
- Result:

2. In verses 14-21, Peter explained the significance of the Day of Pentecost. How would you summarize the introduction of his message?

3. Our core message is centered around four essential truths about Jesus. Take a moment and discuss why each one is essential.

- The *Incarnation* of Jesus (v. 22).
- The *Crucifixion* of Jesus (v. 23).
- The *Resurrection* of Jesus (vss. 24-32).
- The *Exaltation* of Jesus (vss. 32-36).

4. What was the immediate impact of Peter's message (v. 37)? How would you describe what is taking place? Who is responsible for producing this kind of conviction? (Read John 16:8-11).

5. How did Peter answer the question, "What shall we do?" What does a genuine response to the Gospel look like?

6. What are the two gifts of responding to Jesus in repentance and faith?

7. Application:

- Overall, what should be our core message when we are sharing the Gospel? (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-3). In what ways can you shape and refine how you share your faith when given the opportunity?
- When communicating the core message of our faith, urgency is an important quality. How did Peter model urgency? How can we cultivate urgency and sustain it?

**Next Week:** October 9, 2022

*Telling the Truth, The Author of Life*, Acts 3:12-26; 4:5-12

