

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## ACTS 2:40-4:31

The book of Acts and the Gospel that bears his name were written by Luke. And there is a second century prologue to the third Gospel that gives us a personal peek at its author. It reads, “Luke was a Syrian from Antioch, a doctor by profession, a disciple of the apostles: later however he followed Paul until his martyrdom, serving the Lord blamelessly. He never had a wife, he never fathered children, and he died at the age of eighty-four, full of the Holy Spirit...”

Remember, Acts is the story of how Jesus continued to “do and teach” through the outpouring of His Spirit.

This is why it’s so interesting what’s said of Luke, “*he died full of the Holy Spirit.*” Apparently, Luke practiced what he preached. He took the Father’s promise seriously and lived a life filled with power from on high.

The early church wasn’t a perfect church, but it possessed the key ingredients that all churches need.

*They had an overcoming joy. They believed in truth worth dying for. They loved each other like family. And there was a supernatural quality to all their interactions.*

In Acts 4:33, we’re told Jesus blessed His first Church with “great grace” and “great power.” Today, we’ll read of both. We’ll study from 2:40 through 4:31...

“And with many other words (Peter) testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then

those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” What a great start to a church plant. On their first day, 3000 souls get saved!

*But notice what they’re saved from...* We usually conclude we’re saved from sin and its effects, but Peter has a broader view of salvation. He exhorts his listeners, “*Be saved from this perverse generation.*”

There is a spirit in our world today from which we need to be saved. Humans are born sinners. Every generation is tainted by a “*perverse*” or “*twisted*” nature. It displays itself in various ways, but rebellion and independence from God is the underlying theme.

Peter saw salvation in Christ as a way to escape this encompassing twisted-ness. When I’m saved, I begin to unravel my life from a rebellious system that opposes God to live together with people under a higher ideal.

Verse 42 outlines the activities of this godly society.

Here’s what occupied the early Christians. “*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*”

Church and church life didn’t involve *committee meetings*, *political rallies*, or *social clubs*. Luke doesn’t mention *softball leagues*, or *Zumba classes*, or *Weight Watchers* - though that all might have its place. Life in the early church was two things: **simple** and **spiritual**.

The church met around four basic activities...

First, **they delved into the Scriptures**. They taught and studied the Bible. They were Bible junkies...

Second, **they fellowshiped and spent quality time with each other**. The emphasis among them was on knowing and being known - loving and being loved.

Third, **they broke bread** or took communion. They **worshipped** God at the Lord's table and in other ways.

And fourth, **they prayed**. They learned to pray as one voice. Believers that pray together, stay together.

And here's the key - **that's it!**... The church calendar wasn't full of superfluous stuff. They were all about the big ideas - **Word and worship, fellowship and prayer.**

When the early church met together, their agenda was always spiritual. **The church was all about God!**

And notice the results of sticking to this agenda, verse 43, **"Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles."**

These were serious Christians and God validated their faith with **"wonders and signs."** When a church gets serious, God begins to work in supernatural ways.

And there was great love among them, as well. **"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."** Now it's easy to talk about being a spiritual family, but the church in Acts put their money where their mouth was.

They pooled their resources to meet each other's needs. They functioned on the logic that *if Jesus gave His all for me - how can I not give my all for others.*

Some sociologists have referred to the early church as the first expression of *communism*. But not so! This was **common-ism**, not *communism*. **Communism** is forced sharing. Resources are taken from the rich and given to the poor. Here, they voluntarily combined their resources. The rich loved the poor and gave freely.

Yet when we study the early church, though no one can question their motive, there may've been a better way to meet needs over time than pooling their wealth.

Later in Acts, a famine will strike Judea, and the Gentile churches will be asked to collect an offering for the church at Jerusalem. Apparently, they weren't on a solid enough financial footing to weather the storm.

And it may've been their abandonment of personal property and ownership that crippled their ability to endure hardship. Remember, God never *commands* us to pool resources - *only to show love and generosity.*

Their **common-ism** affirmed their love for each other, but it might not have been the best long-term strategy.

Verse 46, "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people." I've heard it put, "A healthy church will be growing larger and smaller at the same

time.” And this was the dynamic combination that existed in Acts.

On the one hand, believers enjoyed the excitement generated by a large meeting with lots of people. This occurred in the Temple... But they also cultivated more intimate fellowship in small groups that met in houses.

It was this larger and smaller dynamic that combined for optimal spiritual growth. And this is what we try to do with our large group gathering on Sunday and our smaller gatherings throughout the week. It's both the *electricity of the stadium* and the *intimacy of the huddle*. Both gatherings are needed to play the game.

But notice the results, “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” *The Lord added!* There was no striving on the part of the church. They had no big programs or pushes. It was just a work of God's Spirit. And I believe “When any church becomes a healthy church God will add to that church.”

Chapter 3, “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.” 9 AM.

Recall Peter and John were Jews as were all the first Christians, and they still lived by Jewish custom.

One of the Jewish rituals was to pray for an hour in the Temple three times a day - 9 AM, noon, and 3 PM. Devout Jews living in Jerusalem followed this practice.

“And a certain man lame from his mother's womb (crippled since birth) was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of

the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple...”

Sadly, there wasn't any vocational training for the disabled in first-century Jerusalem. All a paralytic could do was beg. So each morning this man's caregivers would put him on a stretcher, cart him to the Temple, lay him out by the gate, and let him beg the day away.

And notice they placed him strategically at the *Gate Beautiful*. This was the entrance to the Inner Court, a high traffic spot. And just inside this gate were thirteen offering boxes. This beggar was smart. He hoped to catch devout Jews with a few coins still in their hand.

Verse 3 speaks of the lame man, “who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.” Realize this man was a professional beggar. He was as calloused toward the people walking by as they were calloused toward him.

A beggar never looked into anyone's eyes. His head hung low. He was looking only for expensive sandals. He'd see a pair and shake his cup in their direction.

And the worshippers were as oblivious to him as he was to them. They may've dropped a few coins in his cup, but they never locked eyes with him either.

But what was it that caused Peter to “*fix his eyes*” on this beggar? Maybe a dozen beggars worked this spot. Why lock onto him? It was probably a mixture... *of love, the Spirit's*

leading, an openness, and the gift of faith. But Peter feels a tug in this crippled man's direction...

“Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” Earlier Peter and John had sold their possessions and pooled their resources. They no longer had any silver and gold of their own.

The story is told of the Pope and Thomas Aquinas. One day the Pope was counting the money in the church coffers when Aquinas entered the room. The Pope pointed to his cache of treasure, “*Thomas, we can no longer say, 'silver and gold have I none'?*”

Aquinas responded, “*Yes, and neither can we say, 'in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'*”

It’s a sad indictment against the church when we substitute *prosperity for power* - when we put more trust in *money than in miracles*. No amount of money can buy what we need most - *the power of the Spirit*.

Verse 7, “*And he (Peter) took him (the lame man) by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*” The original wording used by Dr. Luke implies the man's inability to walk was due to severely dislocated ankles. And that’s where this healing occurs in “*his feet and ankle bones.*”

Whenever I read this passage, I always marvel at Peter's faith. Peter was a man like you and me. *Imagine the thoughts racing through his mind before he grabbed the man’s hand. "What if he doesn't stand up? Or if his legs collapse? If this doesn't work I'll be accused of humiliating a handicapped*

*fellow.*” A thousand “*what ifs*” raced through Peter’s mind. Yet, he felt the leading of the Spirit so strongly he refused to second guess. He took a risk to obey God. Spiritually speaking, Peter is walking on water again, but this time he refuses to take his eyes off Jesus.

We all want to walk on water and participate in God’s miracles, but it takes faith. We’ve got to be willing to *set aside fear, muster some courage, and step out when the Spirit nudges us*. Peter grabbed the beggar’s hand, and “*He, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them - walking, leaping, and praising God.*”

Notice the completeness of the miracle. If the man's ankles had been dislocated; then surely his leg muscles had atrophied from decades of immobilization.

Normally, it would’ve taken weeks of physical therapy for him to regain his balance and the use of his legs. Yet, just seconds after the miracle this man is running and leaping through the Temple. *Jesus is not only a Great Physician - He's quite a physical therapist.*

“*And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.*” Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John...” He’d been plagued by *lame legs*, but he wasn’t a *lame brain*...

Rather than run off in excitement, he held on to Peter and John. He realized there was more he could learn from these two men. *Where did this power come from?*



It's vital when God does a miracle that we hold on to it for a while. Often when God works, we revel in the results without realizing a lesson comes attached. This man's legs had been healed, **and** his heart is still open.

“Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.” Solomon's porch was the Temple portico east of the Gate Beautiful. “So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this?” Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”

Quite a crowd gathers. Peter preaches, and how refreshing it is for him to so quickly disavow any personal responsibility for the miracle. Peter's earlier failures had humbled him. Now there's no loitering in the limelight. He and the lame man won't be appearing on Christian TV. There won't be a photoshoot in his next newsletter. *He won't even start a healing ministry.*

Instead, he proclaims, “The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate when he was determined to let *Him* go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.” The Jews “*denied*” then ironically, “*killed the Prince of Life.*” But God has raised Him up. He is still the issue they must deal with!

Walter Wink once said, "Killing Jesus was like trying to destroy a dandelion by blowing on its head." His presence and influence will now be multiplied. You can't duck Jesus. He won't go away. You can even kill Him, and He won't back off. He's on you, *like white on rice*. His love keeps Him coming, hoping you'll repent.

Verse 16, "And His name, through faith in His name (the powerful name of Jesus), has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." Peter doesn't even take credit for the faith he exercised. *That faith* came from Jesus. It was **the gift of faith** spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12:9. Paul is listing various spiritual gifts when he writes, "to another wonder-working faith."

When you need a miracle, don't just pray for the miracle - pray for a special faith to receive the miracle.

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move." A mustard seed is first planted in the soil, then it takes root and sprouts.

And likewise, the gift of faith is a **planted faith**. The Holy Spirit sows it in the soil of our heart, so that with it we can move mountains. This is a strong faith. It's a faith that's "dead to doubts, dumb to discouragements, and blind to impossibilities." To do great things for God, pray for *His* implanted faith - *the spiritual gift of faith!*

"Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers." Peter shows pity on the Jews. He

says their rejection of Jesus wasn't simply willfulness - it was the result of their ignorance.

He gives them a second chance. They can repent, “But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”

And notice, unlike 2:38 this time the invitation has no mention of baptism. If baptism is essential for salvation, Peter would've been sure to mention it, yet he doesn't. His emphasis here, as in Chapter 2, is “*repent.*”

Repentance is more than remorse or regret. It's the willingness to change. It's not the power to change. We lack that power, that's why we need Jesus. But repentance is me providing God the willingness.

And I love God's response to our repentance.

It's threefold: He *converts*. He turns us around. He gives us new drives and desires... He *blots out*. The Spirit is like Bounty paper towels - the quicker picker-upper. He's multiplied. He soaks up the deepest stains...

And third, He sends *times of refreshing*. The Spirit is like the first cool fall day after a sweltering summer. Open the windows. The crisp air is rejuvenating. He puts a smile on your face - a bounce in your step. New possibilities are in the air. *This is the filling of the Spirit.*

Verse 20, “and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the

times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

Whenever I give an invitation to come to Christ, I track with Peter to this point. I say, *repent, be converted, your sins will be blotted out, and refreshment will come...* But I'd never say, repent and Jesus will return to restore all that sin has destroyed!

Yet that's exactly what Peter promises. His terminology “*the times of restoration of all things*” is an idiom for the Kingdom age - a future time - when Jesus reigns over all the earth. Peter is saying to Israel, *if you get saved all God's promises will be fulfilled right now.*

Understand, in the days of the Babylonian exile, God promised Israel a New Covenant, **three “Rs”**: He would **regather** the Jews to their land, **regenerate** their evil hearts, and **restore** to them the Kingdom.

At this point in their history, they'd been *regathered*. Through Jesus, *regeneration*, or new birth, was now possible. The third promise was *restoration* of a physical kingdom. Apparently, if Israel had repented and believed, that would've been what happened next. The end-time scenarios would've been activated.

It's provocative, but Peter seems to imply that if Israel in mass had trusted Jesus at Pentecost, the Church would've been raptured at the end of Acts 3 - the world plunged into Great Tribulation - and according to Daniel's prophecies, seven years later Jesus would've returned.

Historians confirm that in 40 AD the evil Roman Emperor Caligula dispatched a legion of soldiers to Palestine along with a statue of his likeness. Their orders were to erect the statue in the Temple's Holy of Holies and require the Jews to worship the emperor.

A key event in Daniel 9's vision of the end times will be Antichrist's desecration of the Temple. He'll set up his image in a rebuilt Temple and force the world to worship him. *Could that have happened in 40 AD?*

If the Jews had accepted Peter's offer of salvation, God may've set in motion the end-times prophecies.

As it turns out, Jewish leaders rejected the Gospel, and Caligula was assassinated before his statue arrived in Caesarea. His soldiers returned to Rome.

When Israel's leaders rejected Peter's invitation, God put the end time prophecies on pause and reached out to the Gentiles. *And this is where we've been on God's timetable ever since. We're in a holding pattern waiting on the last of the Gentiles to be saved...*

This also explains Peter's quote from Joel 2 on the Day of Pentecost. In his mind, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was combined with the end-time judgments. This is why he spoke of "wonders in heaven... blood and fire and vapor of smoke... the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood." It all would've happened then if the Jewish nation had believed.

Today, God's Spirit is reaching Gentiles, but one day the invitation of Peter will be repeated to the Jewish nation. This

time they'll trust Jesus as their Messiah, all Israel will be saved, and God will release the pause!

Verse 22, "For Moses truly said to the fathers..." He quotes from Deuteronomy 18, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you." This "prophet like Moses" was Jesus!

"And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

Peter is telling his first-century audience that all prophecy has been focused on this moment in history. The Gospel is to the Jew first, *now what will they do?*

Chapter 4 reveals their tragic response. "Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead."

Realize, while Jesus was on earth His primary opposition was from the Pharisees. They didn't like His application of the Law and disregard for their tradition.

But the early Church preached Jesus' resurrection so they were opposed by a sect of Jews called the Sadducees. These rabbis were anti-supernatural. They rejected the notion of miracles and the afterlife. Thus, they opposed any talk of a literal resurrection. *And it's time for a joke... "that's why they were sad-you-see!"*

Well, the angry Jews, "They laid hands on them (that is, on Peter and John), and put *them* in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand."

The church's leaders were arrested, but its numbers exploded. Notice, the growth rate, in a matter of days the early church went from 120 in the Upper Room, to 3000 at Pentecost, to 5000 men here - which doesn't include women and children - possibly 15,000 total.

The Jewish people were converted, but the leaders were obstinate. Verse 5, "And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem."

Annas was the patriarch of a powerful Jewish family. Remember, Jesus was tried before Annas and his son, Caiaphas. Five of Annas' sons were High Priest at one time or another. "And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" Deuteronomy 13 warns that a false prophet with demonic powers can work miracles to draw people away from Yahweh,

the one true God. Thus, it was the job of the Sanhedrin - the Jewish Court - to ask in whose name a miracle was performed.

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit (And it happens to him again! He’s baptized with the Spirit), said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.” Again, you’ve got to admire Peter’s boldness. He assigns guilt: “*whom you crucified.*” This is what the filling of the Holy Spirit brings to a Christian - *courage to speak the truth!*

But Who they crucified, God raised up, and it is that Jesus who gave the lame man back his ability to walk!

Verse 11, “This is the ‘*stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.*’

Peter quotes a familiar Psalm, 118:22. Jesus was the stone rejected by the architects or leaders of Judaism, yet He will become the foundation stone of the Church.

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” *Exclusive?* Yes. *Ambiguous?* No.

Without hesitation, Peter makes it crystal clear that without Jesus a person is lost and damned forever.



“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled.” Annas’ sons studied theology in the elite yeshivas. But Peter and John were blue-collar fishermen. This was the Harvard scholars versus the High School drop-outs. Yet the disciples were the ones who spoke with clarity and authority.

The elites were stunned. *How can it be?* Then “they realized that they had been with Jesus.” This is key! A mastery of original languages, proficiency in theology, knowledge of ancient history all have some value, but it pales compared to spending time with Jesus.

I’m sure you know the meaning of “PhD”? “Piled high and deep.” That’s what a theological education is worth if you haven’t been with Jesus. “Spending time in the halls of higher learning is not nearly as important as spending time at the feet of Jesus.” What Peter and John possessed made what they lacked irrelevant.

Verse 14, “And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.” The lame man himself - wiggling his toes, and bouncing about - was irrefutable evidence!

“But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them *is* evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny *it*. But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name. So they

called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Peter says he has no choice. He's commanded by God to add speech to his faith.

And let me ask us, what goes through our minds when the world tries to intimidate us into silence? "This could cost me my job." "This will hurt my popularity." "I better not push the issue." None of that should matter.

*Is it ever right to listen to man more than God? How can we be silent when God has told us to speak?*

Verse 21, "So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them." They returned to the Upper Room - *it was serving as their headquarters*.

"So when they (other disciples) heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said..."

And pay attention to what they do when threatened? They don't protest, or boycott, or file a lawsuit... they pray! The Church combatted opposition with prayer!

And here's what they prayed, "Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them..."

First, notice they **get their eyes on God.**

Their starting point isn't their fears or their enemy - it is their God. *He made all things! He knows all things! He can do all things!* CS Lewis once said, "The first prayer of all prayers is... may it be the real God to whom I pray, and may it be the real me who prays."

The Church reminds itself that their God is sovereign over every situation. There's nothing He can't do.

Then **they turn to His Word.** "Who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: (and they quote Psalm 2) ' *Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ.*'" God foresaw how *the rulers* would gang up on Jesus. The Lord wasn't caught off guard.

"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done." On that fateful night before Jesus was crucified, Herod, Pilate, and the jealous Jews thought they were in charge. But they were just puppets on a string. They were fulfilling God's purposes. God had been and now is calling the shots!

So they pray, verse 29, "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may

“speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

They pray for boldness - in their speaking and in God's doing. *This is not how we usually pray.* When we face persecution, we ask God to take it away or shelter us from it. Some folks even ask for wisdom to appease the authorities. *But that's not how this church prays.*

Winston Churchill once said, "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile - hoping it will eat him last."

Rather than pray for safety or appeasement, this church prayed for boldness and miracles! *“Lord, look on their threats, but make us a greater threat in speaking Your Word!”* Rather than *lay low*, these men want to *rise up*. The ole Puritan preacher, Phillips Brooks, said, "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men and women. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks."

In verse 31, God answers their prayer emphatically, *“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”* The room shook. The walls wobbled. The floor did the wave. The disciples caught another spiritual gust and were again filled with the Spirit. *It resulted in a renewed desire to speak boldly!*

And remember, these are many of the same folk who were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Now two chapters later, they're being filled again!

RA Torrey once wrote, "We need to be filled again and again with the Holy Spirit. I am sometimes asked, "Have you

received the second blessing?" Yes, and the third, and the fourth, and the fifth, and hundreds beside, and I am looking for a new blessing today."

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is *a point-in-time experience*, but not *a one-time experience*. There are multiple fillings. This is why all Christians need to be continually seeking the power of the Holy Spirit!