

THE PROTOTYPE

August 27, 2017

Acts 5

Jesus' Spirit-filled and power-filled life is a prototype for us to follow.

- *Prototype* – an original model on which something is patterned; an individual that exhibits the essential features of a later type; a first full-scale and usually functional form of a new type or design of a construction
- The way He loved, healed, treated people, obeyed, endured hardship to fulfill His calling was an introduction to a new way of life and an invitation for us to live it.
- Jesus wasn't doing the NEXT thing, but a NEW thing.

Book of Acts has been called *The Acts of the Holy Spirit*

- The power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life authorized Him to preach the Kingdom of God and demonstrate Kingdom power by healing the sick, casting out demons and setting captives free.
- In the book of Acts, the same Spirit is given to the disciples.
- Acts shows how the power of the Holy Spirit flowed through normal people.
- Although Jesus was fully God, He did everything in His earthly ministry as a man.
- Philippians 2:6-7 (NLT) – **“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges...”**
- Jack Hayford – *“The Book of Acts is the story of the disciples receiving what Jesus received in order to do what Jesus did.”*
- We have the same power and Spirit in us that Jesus had.

The Apostles' Account – they were teaching and healing people in Jesus' name

- Acts 5:17-25
- They bring the apostles back before the high council.
- Acts 5:28-29
- The high council was furious and planned to kill them, but Gamaliel, a Pharisee, talked them out of it.
- Acts 5:40-42

Stephen's Account (Acts 6)

- The Church is growing from people getting saved, so needs are growing too.
- Widows were being discriminated against in the distribution of food.
- The apostles release 7 men, full of the Holy Spirit, to meet the practical needs so they can pray and teach the word.
- The apostles laid their hands on them and prayed for them.
- Acts 6:8-10

- The religious leaders stirred up lies to convict Stephen and they stoned him.

Jesus was Their Prototype

THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND POWER

Jesus was Baptized in Water and Filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Luke 3:22 (NLT) – **‘and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."**
- After He was filled, He began teaching the word and doing miracles.

The Apostles and Stephen Lived Under the Influence of the Holy Spirit (4:31).

- Under the power of the HS, the apostles preached the Word and healed people.
- Remember Peter told Jesus that he would face “both prison and death” for Him, but he failed.
- In Acts, we find him a different man—transformed in his heart by the HS.
- Stephen was filled with the HS, power and faith (6:5).
- Stephen moved beyond waiting on tables to do amazing miracles and signs.
- He was NOT an apostle, but he was full of the Holy Spirit and power—he was the first recorded non-apostle to work miracles—this life is for everyone!
- The Holy Spirit is the One who gives you what you need to minister.

THEY LIVED COURAGEOUSLY

Jesus Chose to Fulfill the Father’s Plan for Him.

- Philippians 2:8 (NLT) – **“he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.”**
- He had courage to face the cross.

The Apostles Prayed for Courage (4:29).

- It was because the apostles were filled with the HS that they had courage.
- They are arrested for teaching and miracles, but an angel opens the gates.
- They are instructed to go back and teach in public—they didn’t hide, but shined.
- When God calls us to something, boldness and faith are available to us—we have to put on courage.
- The apostles are brought back to the high council, but instead of jail, they are flogged, released and told not to minister in Jesus’ name.
- They were generally tied to a pole or laid on the ground and received 39 blows—26 on the back and 13 on the front.
- They returned to ministry after being flogged—keep going in persecution.
- They chose to obey God rather than people—great courage—no fear.

- *“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear”* –author unknown.
- Fear cripples you—courage advances you.
- Read 5:41-42
- They rejoiced in the face of persecution and shame—this is true courage.
- Like Jesus, when we are in relationship with our Father, anointed and led by the Holy Spirit, we can do the works of Jesus and even greater.