



The Power of Pentecost

Meditations on God's Mission in the Book of Acts

OLCC's mission leads us to be people who worship God, are formed to be like Christ, and are empowered by the Spirit to be on mission with Jesus. In this space between Easter and Pentecost (May 31), we want to focus together on seeing God's unstoppable mission outlined in the book of Acts. We'll be looking at a passage or chapter from it each day.

As you soak in these passages, you can use the following format that builds in the practices of prayerful reading, inviting God to speak, and praying scripture:

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* Ask God to open the passage to you, and read it again.
3. *Pray.* Use the words of the passage to pray it back to Jesus and the Father.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Throughout our journey to Pentecost, we'll see how the Father's promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled, how the early church was established and continued the ministry of Jesus, and how God worked through these ordinary people to expand his kingdom.

— *Connie Willems*

__ Day 1 Acts 1 – The promise of the Holy Spirit

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Father, what would you like me to see about the mission you gave your people?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 2 Acts 2 – The coming of the Holy Spirit

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Father, what would you like me to see about life in Spirit and truth?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 3 Acts 3 – Power for healing and preaching

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "God, what would you like me to see about your kingdom?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 4 Acts 4:1-31 – Courage to proclaim

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Lord Jesus, what would you like me to see about your Spirit's empowering for courage?"
Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 5 Acts 4:32-5:11 – Commitment to generosity and holiness

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Father, what would you like me to see about your Spirit and truth?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 6 Acts 5:12-42 – "Tell the people the whole message about this life."

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Lord, what would you like me to see about the message you gave your people?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 7 Acts 6:1- 8:3 – Stephen, Full of Grace and Power

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Jesus, what would you like me to see about your kingdom?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 8 Acts 8 – The Apostles proclaim the good news of the kingdom.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "God, what would you like me to see about your presence with us through your Spirit?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 9 Acts 9 – Jesus Christ transforms his enemy, Saul.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Jesus, what would you like me to see about your plans for mission?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 10 Acts 10:1 - 11:18 – God extends the good news to the Gentiles.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Holy Spirit, what do you want to show me about how you work?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 11 Acts 11:19-30 – Teaching, Prophecy, and Giving in Antioch

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "God, what would you like me to see about your activity among believers in a local church?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 12 Acts 12:1-25 – Power During Persecution

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Father, what would you like me to see about your power and purposes, even in hardship?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 13 Acts 13 – Paul's teaching leads many to eternal life.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Jesus, what would you like me to see about the life you came to bring?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 14 Acts 14:1- 15:21 – God's miracles testify to his words of grace.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "God, what would you like me to see about your goodness?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 15 Acts 15:22-41 – The Holy Spirit guides the church.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Holy Spirit, what would you like me to see about how you lead your people?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 16 Acts 16:1-15 – The Holy Spirit directs Paul's mission.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Holy Spirit, what would you like me to see about listening to you?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 17 Acts 16:16-40 – Praise in Prison

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "God, what would you like me to see about your power and purposes, even in hardship?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 18 Acts 17:1-15 – Paul proclaims the Messiah, Jesus.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Jesus, what would you like me to see about those who believe in you?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 19 Acts 17:16-34 – Paul tells the good news in Athens.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Father, what would you like me to see about telling your gospel?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 20 Acts 18 – People in Corinth and Ephesus turn to Jesus.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Lord, what do you want to show me about how you spread your message?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 21 Acts 19 – Paul works and ministers in Ephesus.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Holy Spirit, what would you like me to see about your presence and power?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 22 Acts 20 – Paul strengthens the elders of the Ephesian church.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Jesus, what would you like me to see about caring for and leading your people?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 23 Acts 21:1-26 – The Holy Spirit speaks to Paul through prophecy.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Holy Spirit, what would you like me to see about your power and purposes, even in hardship?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 24 Acts 21:27-22:29 – Paul is arrested in Jerusalem.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Father, what would you like to show me, through Paul's life, about following you?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 25 Acts 22:30-23:35 – "Paul, take courage . . ."

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Lord, what would you like to show me about how you work?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 26 Acts 24 – Felix keeps Paul in prison.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Holy Spirit, what do you want to show me about how you spread your message?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

Day 27 Acts 25 – 26 – In chains, Paul testifies to both small and great.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Father, what would you like me to see about how you empower your mission?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 28 Acts 27 – God speaks during a storm at sea.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "God, what would you like me to see about how you speak?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 29 Acts 28:1-15 – Paul ministers on the island of Malta.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Jesus, what would you like me to see about your power and purposes, even in hardship?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.

__ Day 30 Acts 28:16-30 – In Rome, Paul boldly proclaims the kingdom.

1. *Read.* Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the passage to orient yourself.
2. *Ask.* "Lord, what would you like to highlight to me from our time together in Acts?" Read the passage again.
3. *Pray.* Use the passage and what God has shown you to pray the Scripture back to God.
4. *Listen.* Pause and listen, and note what you sense God communicating to you.