

The Book of Acts: Devoted

Class 4

Questions from Class 3:

1

Who Can Be Saved?

2

What must I do to be saved?

3

What is Baptism?

4

What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Questions from Class 3:

5

When does the Holy Spirit come to dwell in us?

6

What is the Laying on of Hands?

7

What does it mean to be Filled with the Spirit?

8

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in my Life?

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added on that day about three thousand souls. And they were **devoting** themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers. Fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together, and had all things in common;

and they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as anyone had need. Day by day **continuing** with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God , and finding favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:41-47

Devoted Constant

What does it mean to be devoted?

Proskartereō - to persist in a thing, apply diligently to it; to endure, to persevere, to be strong or firm towards anything, to be constantly occupied or engaged in; to be continually in with or near any person or thing.



http://www.wmbc.org.uk/content/pages/uploaded_images/25.jpg



http://portal.navigators.org/us/view/one-to-one_mr/2011/2011-08/resources/phototool.jpg

42 And they were devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

Zealous Dear Ardent



And all who believed were together, and had all things in common; and they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as anyone had need.

Zealous *Dear* **Ardent**



Day by day **continuing** with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God, and finding favor with all the people.

Zealous Dear Ardent

Devoted

Devotion is an individual choice:

- we choose to be devoted,
- we commit to being devoted,
- devotion is solely our own personal responsibility.

**To what or to whom are
you devoted?**

Devoted Constant

1

God Devoted to Me/Us

2

Me/Us Devoted to God

God Devoted to Me/Us

He has invited
us all to a great
banquet,
clothed us for
it,



God Devoted to Us



Everything has been prepared, a great spiritual feast

God Devoted to Us



He has placed His Spirit in us,
given us every spiritual blessing
in Christ and lavished the riches
of his grace upon us – Eph 1:3-14

God Devoted to Us

By His Spirit He:

Helps us/directs us/makes us bold to speak about God:

Ac 1:8; 2:17-18; 4:8, 31; 6:10; 8:29; 11:12; 13:2; 16:6; 19:6; 28:25; Lk 1:41-42, 67; 2:25-35; 4:14-15, 18, 12:11-12; 1 Cor 2:13; 12:8

Encourages us – Ac 9:31

Gives us power/energy – Eph 3:16; 2 Tim 1:7

Gives us joy, peace and hope – Rom 15:13,

Enables us/helps us to serve – Rom 7:6; Php 3:3

God Devoted to Us

By His Spirit He:

Pours his love into our hearts; helps us love:

Rom 5:5; 15:30; 2 Tim 1:7

Changes our desires and actions – Rom 8:13;

Php 2:13

Draws us close to God – Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:6

Enables us to think, evaluate & understand spiritually – 1 Cor 2:9-16; Col 1:9

He has fellowship with us – 2 Cor 13:14;

God Devoted to Us

By His Spirit He:

Intercedes for us:

Rom 8:26-27 (Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25)

Leads us:

Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18; Examples: Mt 4:1; Lk 4:1;

Appoints/sends out: Ac 13:2-4 (Paul & Barnabus) Ac 20:28 (elders)

Gives/Distributes Gifts: Rom 12:3-8;
1 Cor 12:4-11, 27-31; 1 Cor 14; Eph 4:7-13;

God Devoted to Us

By His Spirit He:

Confirmed the message with Signs, Wonders and Miraculous Gifts: Mk 16:16-20; Ac 2:22, 32-33; 8:6-13; 14:3; Rom 15:18-19; Heb 2:4

Origen (185-254), writes: “The Holy Spirit gave signs of His presence at the beginning of Christ’s ministry. And after His ascension, He gave still more. But since that time, these signs have diminished, although there are still traces of His presence in a few who have had their souls purified by the Gospel, and their actions regulated by its influence. 4.614.

God Devoted to Us

God worked to confirm the message by signs and wonders and various miraculous and gifts of the Holy Spirit as he promised to do.

The Last Days



That the time of confirming the message has passed does not mean that God has lessened his devotion to us, just that we are in a different period – similar to process in OT

God Devoted to Us

This doesn't mean that God is limited.
He can do and act as powerfully as ever and in
whatever way he sees fit.

The Last Days



Signs to Confirm
Message

Time of Faithfulness
to the Message

Jesus' Return
The LAST day

It does mean that we need to believe, have
faith and pray continually, and keep in step
with the Spirit as he chooses to work today
until Jesus returns.

Me Devoted to God

³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you **who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.** We will turn this

responsibility
attention
word.” They
They chose

How did they determine that Stephen, Philip and the others were full of the Holy Spirit?

the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. Ac 6:3-5

Me Devoted to God

What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? – Gal 5:22-26

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self Control

Me Devoted to God

W
vs.
Have

Have Not

Gal 5:22-26

21

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self Control

Sexual Immorality

Impurity

Debauchery

Idolatry

Witchcraft

Hatred

Discord

Jealousy

Fits of Rage

Selfish Ambition

Dissensions

Factions

Envy

Drunkenness

Orgies

and the like

Me Devoted to God

Bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit – Gal 5:22-26

Dying to the acts of the flesh – Gal 5:19-21

Change: 2 Cor 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, just as from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Me Devoted to God

Bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit – Gal 5:22-26

Dying to the acts of the flesh – Gal 5:19-21

Change: 2 Cor 3:17-18

1 Sam 10:6-7 Saul anointed (1 Jn 2:20)

The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

Me Devoted to God

We are changed completely: but in what ways?

God is a God of process: he starts with a seed; he is the expert builder – Jesus the cornerstone.

Ez 37 – Valley of bones – how did they come back to life?

1 Pet 2:2 Like newborn babes, crave the milk that is pure and *logikos*, so that by it you may grow up to salvation

Logikos: pertaining to the reason, rational, logical; united to the rational faculties, alludes to *logos*, hence to God's word, spiritual.

Me Devoted to God

God
EXPECTS us
to use our
brains!

1 Pet 2:2 Like newborn babes, crave the milk that is pure and *logikos*, so that by it you may grow up to salvation

logikos: pertaining to the reason, rational, logical, united to the rational faculties, alludes to *logos*, hence to God's word, spiritual.

Me Devoted to God

Devoted to the Apostles Teaching

Read Scripture, Listen to Scripture,
Study Scripture Dt 17:18-20; Rev 1:3;

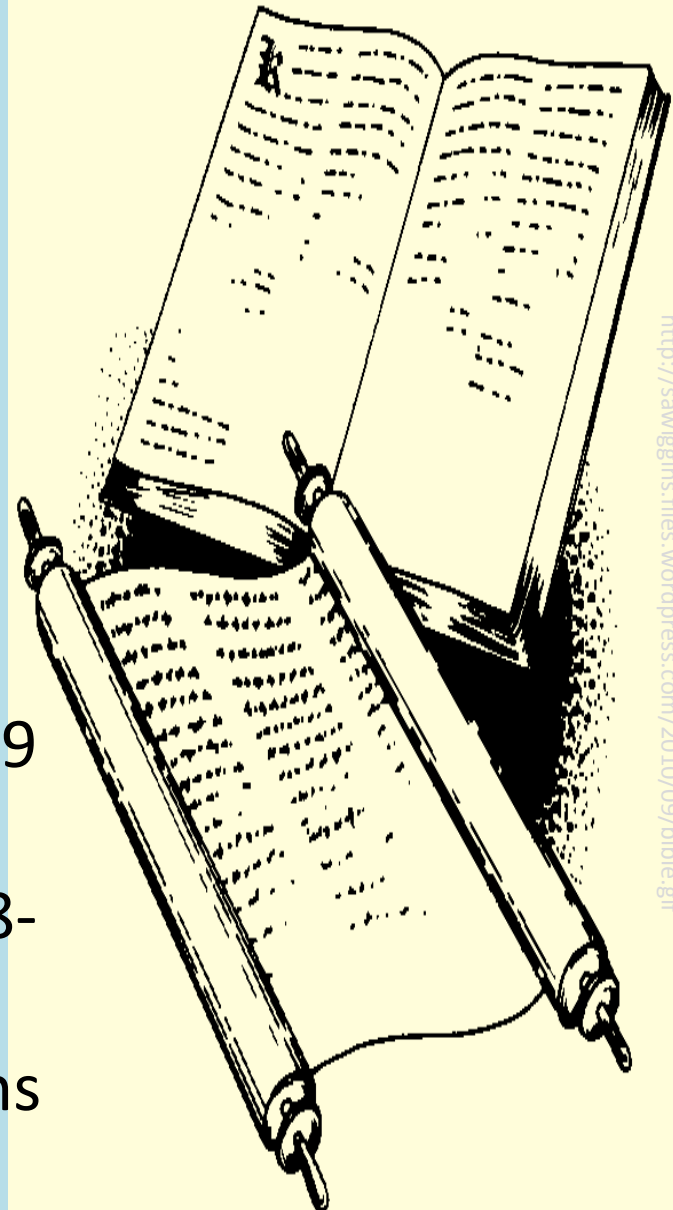
Pray for understanding and wisdom
Col 1:9; Jas 1:5

Memorize Scripture Dt 11:18, Ps
119:11, Pr 4:5, Heb 8:10

Meditate/Dwell on/Contemplate
scripture Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2; Ps 119:97-99

Talk about/share scripture and how it
applies to you; Journal; Teach Dt 11:18-
20 Heb 5:12

Speak to one another in Psalms, Hymns
and Spiritual Songs *Eph 5:19*



Me Devoted to God

Devoted to the Fellowship

But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the



How would you describe your time in fellowship?

What is your purpose when you come to fellowship?

The quality of our fellowship with one another extends from the quality of our fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Spirit

Me Devoted to God

Devoted to the Fellowship

Speak the truth in love

Eph 3:15-16



Encourage one another every day Heb 3:13

Brothers, admonish the disorderly, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient toward all.

1 Th 5:13

...lead a life worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all humility and patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the bond of peace. Eph 4:1-3

Me Devoted to God

Personal Devotion:

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Cor 6:19-20

Church Devotion:

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Cor 3:16-17

Me Devoted to God

Fellowship and our Individual life



Consider one another:

Rom 14:1- 15:3

1 Cor 8:1-13

1 Cor 10:23-33

²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

Me Devoted to God

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is

constructive **No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.** 1 Cor 10:23-24



So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Cor 10:31

Me Devoted to God

Paul's Example:

1 Cor 9:19-23

I have made myself a slave to everyone to win as many as possible

Ac 21:20-26

Joined in purification and paid for four others to participate to help heal Jew-Gentile concerns



**Make every effort
to keep the unity of
the Spirit through the
bond of peace.**

Eph 4:3

Me Devoted to God

Devoted to the Breaking of Bread

Remember Jesus: his sacrifice for me, his victory, his resurrection, his ascension 1 Cor 11:23-26; 2 Tim 2:8



Remember Jesus' sacrifice for the body Mt 26:26; Mk 14:22; Heb 10

Shared remembering and renewal

Renew my commitment to/dependence on Jesus
Jn 6:25-59; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Heb 12:1-2

Discerning the body of the Lord 1 Cor 11:27-34

Celebrate salvation, rebirth, and the coming return of Jesus
and our resurrection

Me Devoted to God

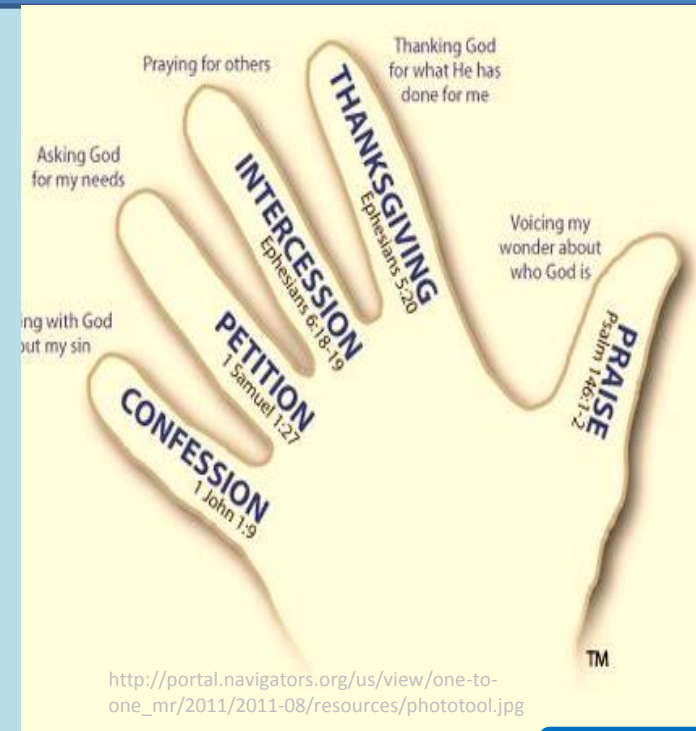
Devoted to Prayer

Devote yourself to prayer Rom 12:12

By means of all prayer and petition, pray at every time in the Spirit, and to this end keep alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, Eph 6:18

Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The active prayer of a righteous person has great power. Jas 5:16

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Php 4:6



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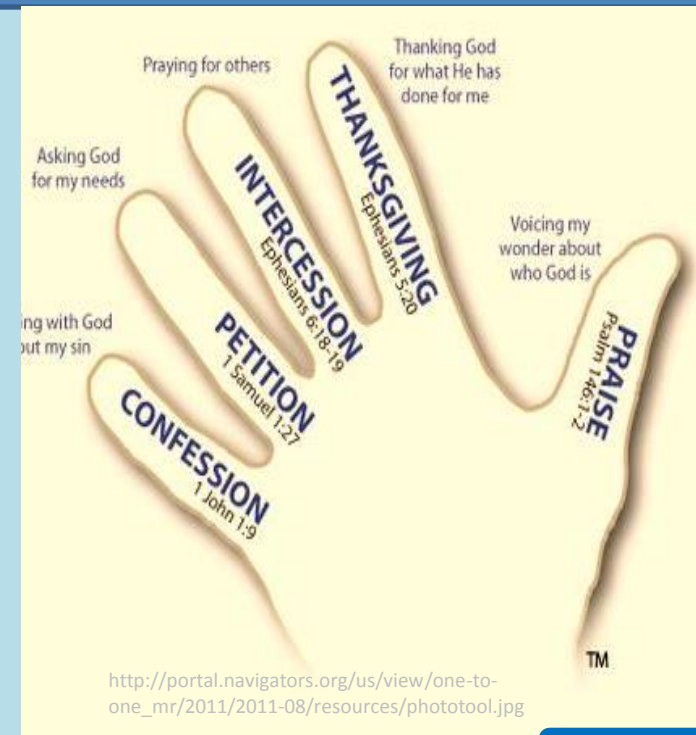
Me Devoted to God

Devoted to Prayer

Individual Prayer

Small Group Prayer

Church Prayer



Pray using scripture Acts 4:23-31

Ac 1:14, 24; 2:42; 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4, 6; 7:59;
8:15; 9:11, 40; 10:2, 9, 30; 11:5; 12:5, 12; 13:3;
14:23; 16:13, 16, 25; 20:36; 21:5; 22:17; 28:8

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Me Devoted to God



Devoted to Giving Financially

Gave to anyone as they had need
Act 2:45

Barnabus sold a field and gave the
money to the church Ac 4:36-37

Ananias & Sapphira also sell a field
Ac 5:1-11

Nadab & Abihu Lv 10:1-11

Korah offers incense Nm 16:1-50

Achan keeps spoils Jsh 7:1-26

**What Lessons should we take from
this?**

Me Devoted to God

Devotion to God requires financial sacrifices – we cannot serve both God and Money Mt 6:24

money to the church Ac 4:36-37

Ananias & Sapphira also sell a field
Ac 5:1-11

My financial giving is Spiritual in nature; The Holy Spirit is intimately involved and aware of the attitude of my heart and the thoughts in my mind

1-11

Nm 16:1-50

7:1-26

Me Devoted to God

It was the regular sacrifices and offerings that supported the priests and Levites in their full-time service

Devoted to Giving Financially

The congregations supported churches in need Ac 2:45

Examples of giving in the NT include

- giving as needs arose
- special collections

Both special collections and regular giving are demonstrated in the OT

- Tabernacle const.
- Temple const.
- Regular tithing
- Regular sacrifices and offerings

Me Devoted to God

There were issues to correct:

Paul had to correct those who didn't give and who were essentially moochers, living off of the church and using scripture to endorse their laziness 2 Th 3:7-15

⁹ It is not that we don't have the right to support, but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us. ¹⁰ In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat." ¹¹ For we hear that there are some among you who walk irresponsibly, not working at all, but interfering with the work of others.



Me Devoted to God



Jesus watched the widow put in 2 small coins – all she had to live on.

Large or small, making sacrifices and giving contributions is an integral part of our spiritual worship.

We are not commanded to give, but Jesus takes note of those who show gratitude

We are called to give cheerfully.

Contributions, are purely responses to how grateful we are for what God has done and is doing in our lives and how we understand our place before God.

Devoted