

Firm Foundations

Growing in Christ: Acts

book 7

Study Guide

Trevor McIlwain



The Scripture version used in these lessons is the New King James Version (NKJV).

First Printing 2013

Firm Foundations Growing In Christ: Acts (Revised Edition)
Book 7: Study Guide

Copyright 2013 by Ethnos360
312 W 1st St
Sanford, FL 32771

Leon Trevor McIlwain

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publishers, with the exception of brief quotations in magazine reviews or other notices.

ISBN Number: 978-1-61565116-0

Printed in the United States of America

What is *Firm Foundations*?

Just what is *Firm Foundations*? It is foundational, chronological Bible teaching.

This method of teaching is patterned on God's progressive revelation of Himself and His plan to rescue people from sin, Satan and death. Lessons start "in the beginning." Moving through the Old and New Testaments, *Firm Foundations* highlights the themes that run through all of God's Word. This builds, from lesson to lesson, an understanding of the Bible as a whole.

This practical approach has been used all over the world, and is proven for:

- Evangelism
- Grounding new believers
- Teaching maturing believers
- Planting churches

Firm Foundations arose from the experience of Trevor McIlwain in the 1960s. While working cross-culturally with a people group in the Philippines, Trevor saw the need to establish proper biblical foundations. He developed Bible lessons to meet that need. As Trevor states, "The Scriptures were progressively revealed by God within the context and framework of history. Therefore, the best way to teach divine truth in any culture is God's way, within the chronological and historical framework of the Scriptures."

Trevor shared this approach with other missionaries who were also teaching cross-culturally, initially distributing his basic outline and later detailed Bible lessons. They discovered, as he had, that this *Firm Foundations* approach was exceptionally effective.

When these missionaries returned home, their glowing testimonies inspired pastors and other Bible teachers to adopt this method. As a result, the *Firm Foundations* lessons were modified for churches and home Bible studies, and this approach has proven equally effective in English-speaking settings as in cross-cultural settings.

Since that time, adaptations of the *Firm Foundations* materials have been developed for many languages, cultural contexts and age groups.

You are now a part of the *Firm Foundations* legacy!

How to Use This Study Guide

You are about to embark on a study of one of the most exciting history books in the whole world – the book of Acts. In this Study Guide, you will be encouraged and strengthened as you learn how the Church, under the direction of the exalted Lord Jesus, triumphed, spreading geographically and growing numerically in the face of fierce persecution. You will be inspired by the lives of the early believers, and you will find many practical truths which you can apply to your own life today.

This Study Guide is intended to be used in conjunction with the *Firm Foundations: Growing in Christ – Acts* Bible study.

This Study Guide provides a space where you can take notes while the teacher expands on the lesson. In addition, questions are included for personal study and review after class. At the end of each lesson, you will find an Answer Key for checking your answers.

Lesson

1

The glorified Christ sent the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Outline and Scripture	For Class Notes
1. Introduction (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3)	<hr/> <hr/>
2. Jesus reminded the apostles of the coming Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4-5, 8)	<hr/> <hr/>
3. Jesus ascended into Heaven. (Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9)	<hr/> <hr/>
4. Jesus will come again. (Mark 14:62; Acts 1:10-11; Revelation 20:10-15)	<hr/> <hr/>
5. The apostles and other believers waited for the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:12-14; 2:1)	<hr/> <hr/>
6. The Lord Jesus fulfilled His promise by sending the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-18; Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:19-22)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
7. All the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18)	<hr/> <hr/>
8. All the believers spoke languages different from their own. (Acts 1:8; 2:4-11)	<hr/> <hr/>
9. Some of the Jews were amazed, and others were skeptical. (Acts 2:7, 12-13)	<hr/> <hr/>
10. Peter preached to the local Jews. (Acts 2:14-18, 22-24, 32-33, 36)	<hr/> <hr/>
11. Many Jews who heard Peter preach repented when they realized that Jesus was the Deliverer. (John 16:7-11; Acts 2:37-40)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
12. Conclusion	<hr/>

Personal Study Questions

1. What is the connection between the two books that Luke wrote? (Refer to Acts 1:1-3.)

2. According to Acts 1:8, what ability did Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit would give the apostles and all believers?

3. What prophecy in Psalm 68:18 was fulfilled in Acts 1:9?

4. After Jesus ascended into Heaven, what did the two angels tell the disciples?

5. The first time Jesus came to the earth, it was to be the Deliverer. The next time He comes to earth, what will He come as?

6. When Jesus returns to judge the world, what will happen to those who haven't agreed with God that they are sinners, and, therefore, haven't trusted in Jesus alone as their Savior? (Refer to Revelation 20:10-15.)

7. What did the apostles and other believers do after Jesus returned to Heaven?

8. Why don't we need to pray and wait for the Holy Spirit to come to us like the apostles did?

9. When the Holy Spirit came to live permanently in believers on the Day of Pentecost, what did He unite the believers to be? (Refer to Ephesians 2:19-22.)

10. When the Holy Spirit came to live permanently in all believers, how was that different from the Holy Spirit's relationship with believers prior to Pentecost?

11. What does it mean in Acts 2:4 when it says that "*they were all filled with the Holy Spirit*"?

12. Why did the Holy Spirit enable the apostles and other believers to speak in languages which were different from their own – languages they had never learned?

13. Why was Peter able to speak fearlessly to the very people who had crucified Jesus?

14. What did Peter say that the coming of the Holy Spirit proved? (Refer to Acts 2:33.)

15. In Acts 2:36, Peter urged the Jews to acknowledge that Jesus was their Lord. Why is Jesus "Lord"?

16. In Acts 2:36, Peter also urged the Jews to acknowledge that Jesus was their Christ. What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ?

17. Why is it important that we allow the Holy Spirit to have control of our lives?

18. In what way does Peter's and the others' bold witness in the power of the Holy Spirit encourage you in telling others the Gospel?

Personal Study Answers

1. *The gospel of Luke tells what Jesus began to do and teach; Acts records what Jesus continued to do through the Holy Spirit in the Christian Church.*
2. *Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give believers the ability to tell others the Gospel.*
3. *The fulfilled prophecy was that the Deliverer ascended into Heaven.*
4. *The angels told the disciples that Jesus will come again.*
5. *The next time Jesus returns to earth, He will come as the Almighty King and Judge.*
6. *Those who have not believed they are sinners will be cast into the everlasting fire along with Satan and his demons.*
7. *After Jesus returned to Heaven, the apostles and other believers waited in Jerusalem for Jesus to send the Holy Spirit.*
8. *We don't need to pray and wait for the Holy Spirit because He came to live in each of us the moment we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.*
9. *The Holy Spirit united all believers to be the Church – God's dwelling place on earth.*
10. *Before the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had been with believers, but did not live in them.*
11. *When it says they were filled with the Holy Spirit, it means that the Holy Spirit took control of each one of the believers.*
12. *The Holy Spirit gave the believers in Jerusalem the ability to speak in different languages so the Jews who were visiting from other countries would hear of the wonderful things which God had done through the Lord Jesus.*
13. *Peter was able to speak fearlessly because the Holy Spirit had come and indwelt him, giving him courage and the ability to speak.*
14. *Peter said that the coming of the Holy Spirit proved that Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God in Heaven.*
15. *Jesus is Lord because:*
 - *He is the eternal Son of God.*
 - *He overcame death by His resurrection.*
 - *All power is given to Him in Heaven and on earth.*
 - *He is seated at the right hand of His Father in Heaven.*
16. *Jesus is the Christ because:*
 - *He is the great Prophet. He is the Truth and the One who shows us what God is really like.*
 - *He is the great High Priest. He offered His life blood on the Cross as the complete payment for our sins. Because of Him, we can now come right into the presence of God.*
 - *He is the great King. He is seated at God's right hand and has all authority in Heaven and earth. He is King of kings.*
17. *Allowing the Holy Spirit to control us is important because, when the Holy Spirit is controlling us, we will be able to obey God's Word, worship Him as we should, and be effective witnesses for the Lord.*
18. *[The answer to this question will be personal to you.]*