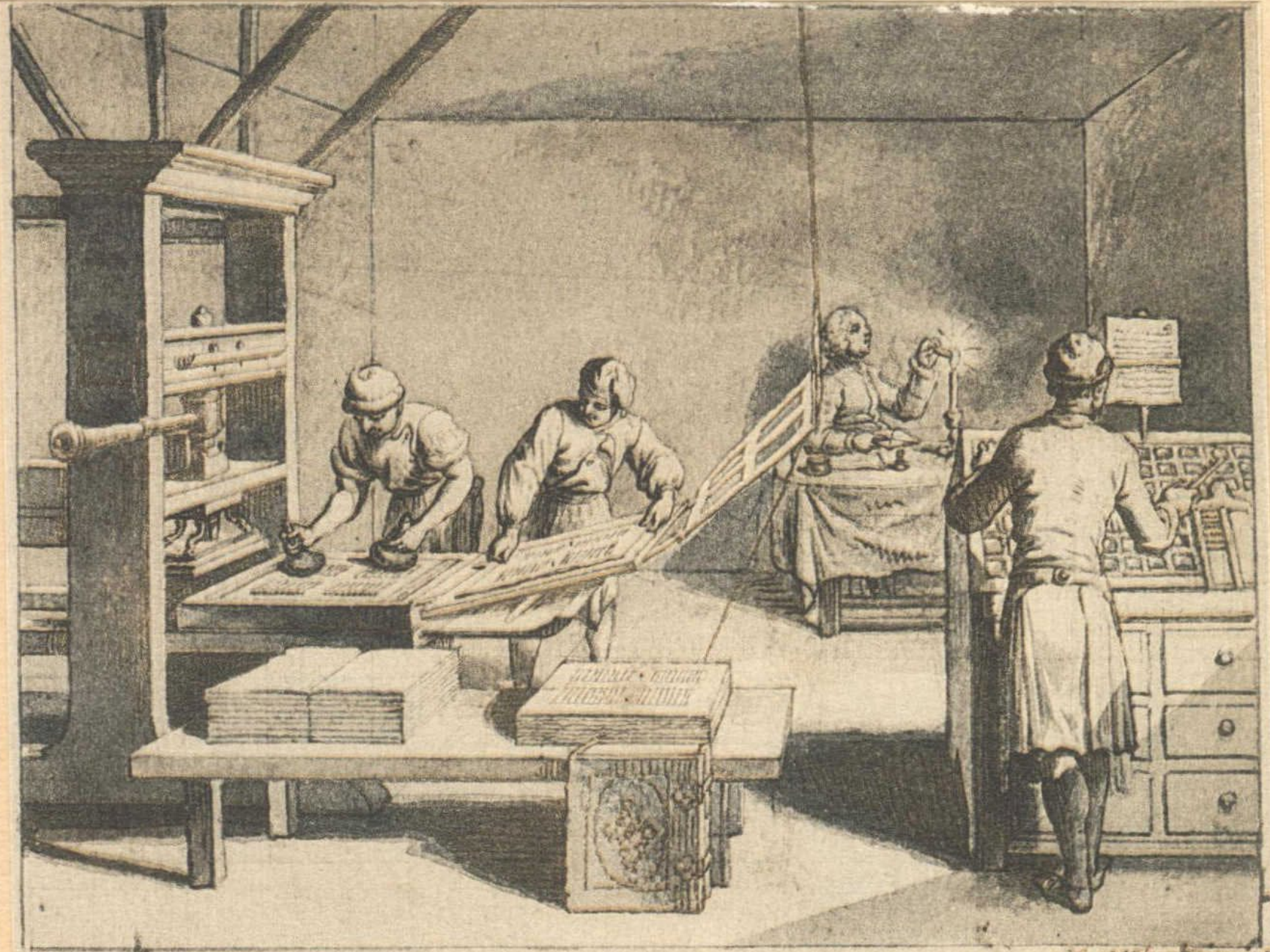




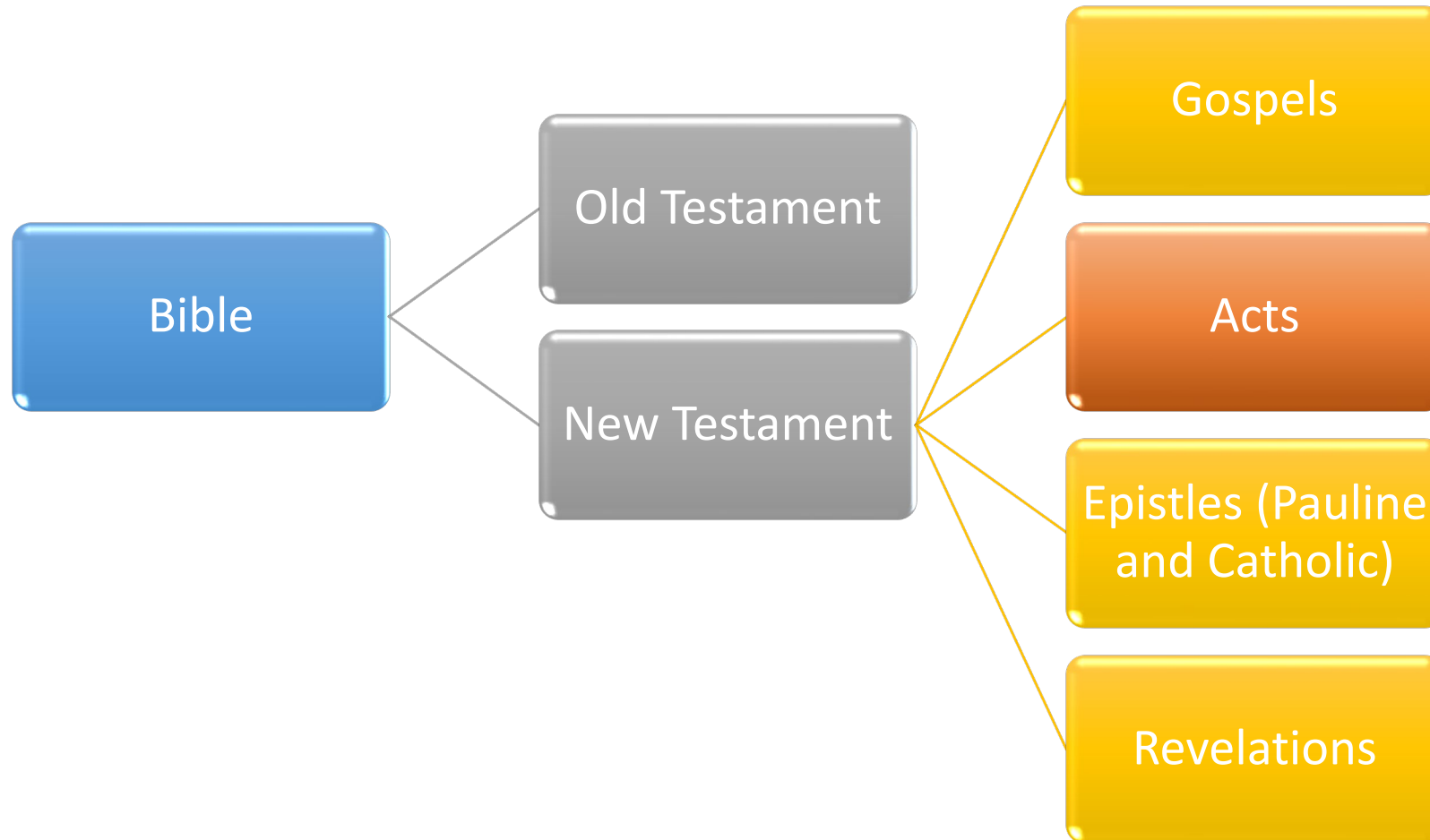
Acts of the Apostles: The Work of the Holy Spirit

St. Mark's Servants Preparation Class



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Quick reminder of where we are:



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Main Events:

- Christ's ascension

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and **the end of the earth**”*

(Acts 1:8)

- Pentecost – disciples receive and are empowered by the Holy Spirit

Main Events:

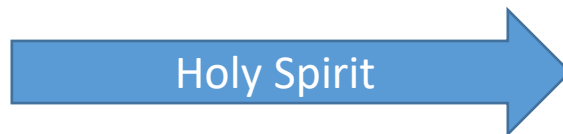
- Witnessing in **Jerusalem** (chapters 1-4)
 - Peter gives a powerful sermon and performs miracles, preaching Resurrection resulting in thousands more joining the faith
 - The early church sees persecution as Peter and John are arrested, and Stephen is dragged out of the city, stoned, and becomes the first Christian martyr
- Witnessing in **Judea and Samaria** (chapters 8-12)
 - Gentiles join the faith and the Church grows and prospers throughout the entire extended region
 - The persecutor Saul becomes the believer Paul
- Witnessing to **the ends of the earth** (chapters 13-28)
 - Focus on St. Paul's ministry
 - Three missionary journeys detailed
 - Galatian cities, Macedonia, Greece, Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Antioch

That's a great story, but I'm not worried about being imprisoned and I'm not about to preach to thousands of people, so what does this mean for me?

What's going on here?



Transformation





The Power & Work of the Holy Spirit



³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:3-4)

So how do I acquire the Holy Spirit?



So how do I acquire the Holy Spirit?



Prayer



Acts 4:24-31

Prayer



Acts 4:24-31

- ²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who [\[C\]](#)by the mouth of Your servant David have said:
- ‘Why did the nations rage,
And the people plot vain things?
²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together
Against the LORD and against His Christ.’
- ²⁷ “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 ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”
- ³¹ 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.

But caution...

- Acts 5:41

⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for [\[a\]](#)His name.



So how do I acquire the Holy Spirit?



Empty Yourself



Empty Yourself



Acts 9:1-16

Emptying Yourself

- Saul (who later became St. Paul)
 - “Who are you Lord?”
 - he emptied himself of his own judgements, had an obedient response to God when he was called and went on to witness Him “to the end of the Earth” as we outlined earlier
- St. Ananias
 - “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.”
 - But when God told him to “go,” he obeyed, emptied himself of his own thoughts towards Saul and accepted Saul as God asked, even after identifying him as a persecutor to Christians

So how do I acquire the Holy Spirit?



Listening for the Holy Spirit

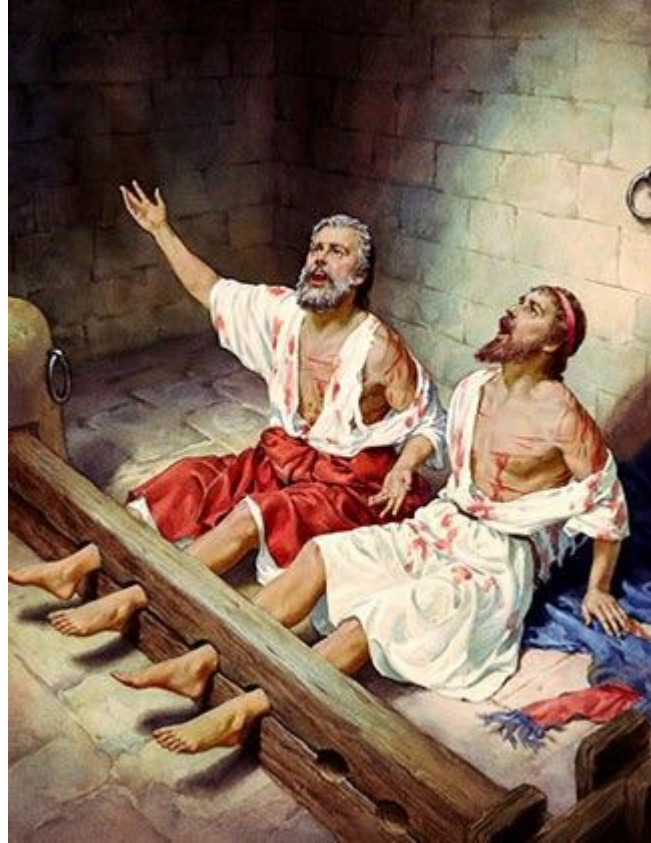


Acts 8: 26-40

So how do I acquire the Holy Spirit?



Avoiding Sin



Acts 16: 26-40

Impact of the Holy Spirit in My Life & Service

1. Quiet Confidence & Peace
2. Prayer that reaches God
3. Long-suffering
4. Power & special ability



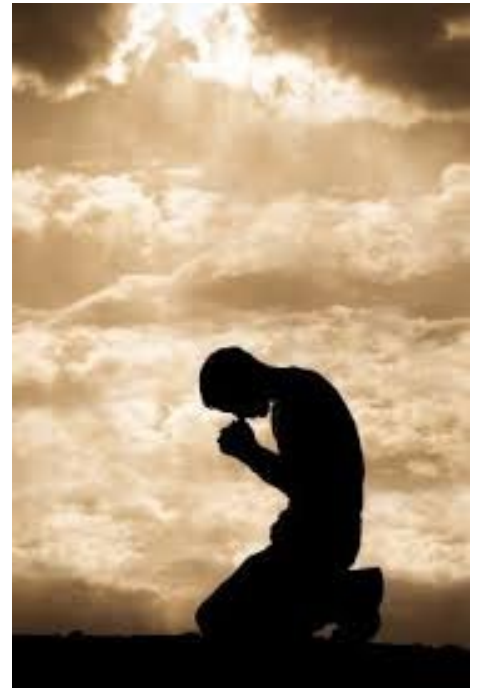
1. Quiet Confidence & Peace



- This is not arrogance
- Trust that God will take care of your life issues & service
 - “Do your best and leave the rest to God”
- Trust that God will take care of those who you are serving ... be patient
- Be a confident role model for what is righteous
 - Spread our faith without even saying a word

2. Prayer that Reaches God

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 (Acts 4:31)



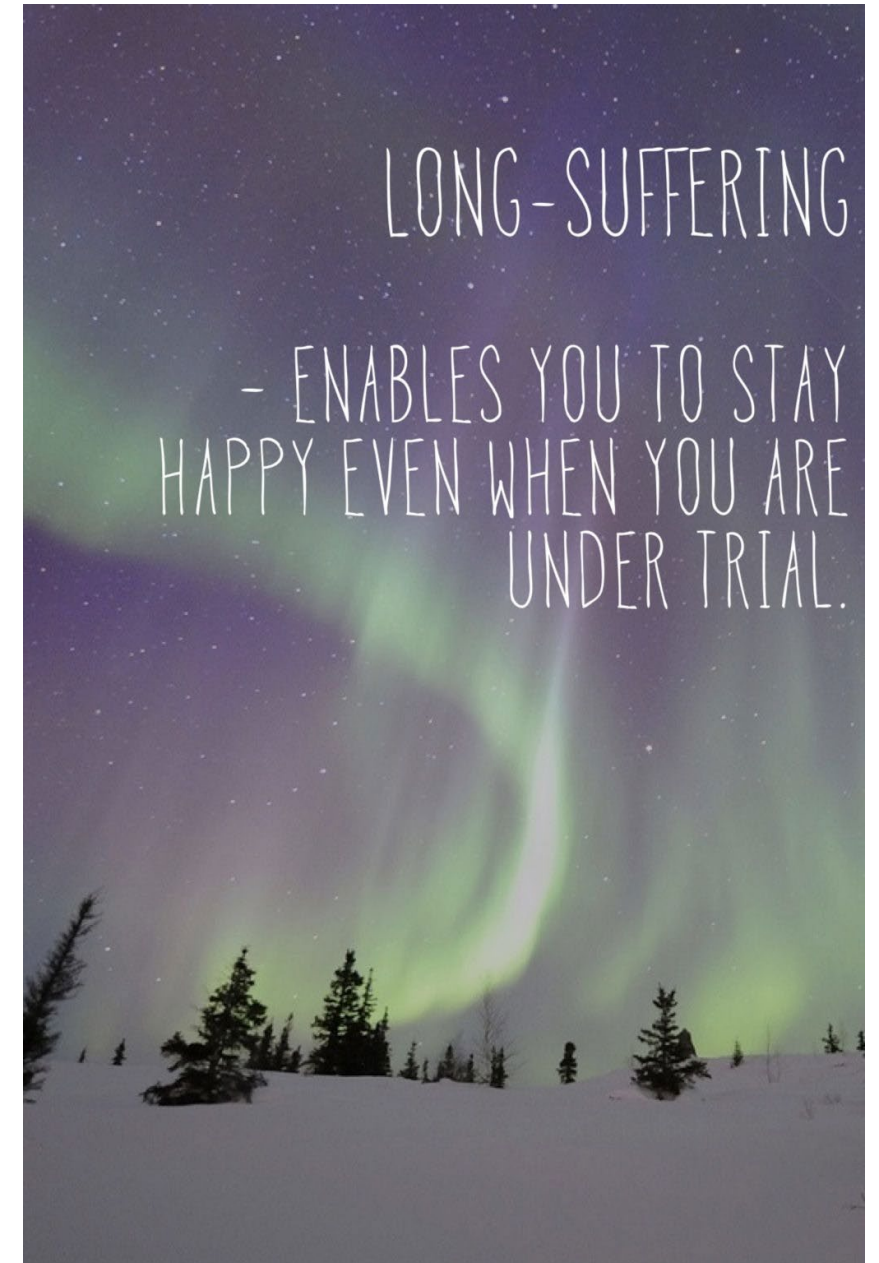
2. Prayer that Reaches God

- How far does your prayer go?
 - Ceiling of your room?
 - Clouds?
 - God?
- Prayer is your greatest tool in connecting with God
 - Solving problems in life & service
 - [REAL STORIES – pool job, career, service]
 - Gives you God's direction



3. Long-suffering

- All of the 12 disciples were martyred (except St. John)
- There was a cost to preaching the Word.... there is a cost to following our Lord Jesus Christ & also preaching His Name
- Service may not be easy ... sometimes it takes many years to see fruit



4. Power & Special Ability

- A few uneducated fisherman spread Christianity around the world ...
WOW!!
- The Holy Spirit gives us special power to carry through life & do God's service
 - "... they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on them" (Acts 5:15)

Conclusion



TO BE CONTINUED...

The church continues in all of us...!



The church continues in all of YOU...!