

SPREAD THE WORD

A SERIES IN ACTS

A Mighty Rushing Wind

Acts 2:1-13

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Senior Pastor

 bethel *community*
CHURCH

Pursuing God's Direction

Pursuing God's Direction

Acts 1:12-26 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. **13** And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. **14** All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. -

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15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, 16 “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 17 For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. -

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19 And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; And “‘Let another take his office.’ 21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, -

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22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” 23 And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” -

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**26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.
(ESV)**

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8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

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I. We are to live in obedience to God's Word.

A. We are to follow what the Lord tells us to do.

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

Pursuing God's Direction

I. We are to live in obedience to God's Word.

A. We are to follow what the Lord tells us to do.

- *Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Pursuing God's Direction

I. We are to live in obedience to God's Word.

A. We are to follow what the Lord tells us to do.

- *John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*

Pursuing God's Direction

I. We are to live in obedience to God's Word.

B. Obeying the Lord involves waiting on Him.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;
8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Pursuing God's Direction

II. We are to unite with God's people in prayer.

A. We are to continually seek God's presence and direction together.

14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Pursuing God's Direction

II. We are to unite with God's people in prayer.

A. We are to continually seek God's presence and direction together.

- *Romans 15;5-6 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Pursuing God's Direction

II. We are to unite with God's people in prayer.

B. Prayer unites our hearts and minds together.

14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- *1 Thessalonians 5:17* pray without ceasing,
- We are totally dependent on Christ.
- Prayer sharpens and strengthens our witness.

Pursuing God's Direction

III. We are to seek and submit to God's will.

A. We are to pursue guidance from God through His Word and His Spirit.

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- Qualifications for the one to take Judas' place:

- A man who had accompanied the apostles throughout Jesus' ministry.
- A man who had witnessed Jesus' resurrection.

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III. We are to seek and submit to God's will.

B. God reveals His will for our lives in prayer.

23 And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Pursuing God's Direction

III. We are to seek and submit to God's will.

B. God reveals His will for our lives in prayer.

- The Holy Spirit moves, directs and leads us.

- The Holy Spirit empowers us to submit to God's will.

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As we face various decisions
we are to seek the Lord's direction
by living in obedience to His Word,
uniting with His people in prayer
and by submitting to His will .

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