

The Story

Chapter 28

New Beginnings

Cornelius

- A Roman Centurion from Caesarea
- A God-fearing man
- As a result of Peter's visit
 - His whole family believed in Jesus
- Among the first of the Gentiles to believe
- Name means – of a horn

Judas

- Not Iscariot who betrayed Jesus
- From Damascus
- Lived on straight street
- Housed Saul/Paul after he was blinded

Philip

- An Apostle of Jesus
- After Stephen martyred
 - He proclaimed the gospel – in Samaria
- Did signs

Stephen

- 1st Christian martyr
- Greek speaking Jew
- 1 of the 7 entrusted with relief fund admin
- Full of faith
- Refused to give in to religious leaders
- Stoned for speaking against law of Moses
- Forgave leaders as they stoned him
- His death sparked persecution

Theophilus

- Books of Luke & Acts are addressed to him
- Name means God lover
- Friend of Luke

Saul

- Not the first king
- Stood at the stoning of Stephen
- Sought letters to persecute the “followers”
- Persecute Christians
- Met by Jesus on Damascus road
- Blinded and sent to Ananias
- Recorded 3 missionary journeys
- Wrote much of the NT

Transitions

- Ministry of Jesus to ministry of apostles
- Hiding to boldness
- Presence of Jesus to presence of Holy Spirit
- Old covenant to New
- Israel as God's chief witness to the Church
- The place of worship from synagogues to churches in homes
- Jews to Gentiles
- Circumcision to baptism (Acts 10)
- Jerusalem to rest of world
- Law to grace

Mentioning of Jesus

- Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ...
- Peter said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!”
- By faith in the name of Jesus, this man (the cripple) was made strong.
- It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him.
- The High Priest questioned them saying, “By what power or what name did you do this?”
- Resp: “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead that this man stands before you healed.”
- Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved.
- Sanhedrin: We must warn them to speak no longer in this name.
- They commanded them not to teach or speak at all in the name of Jesus.
- After they were jailed, rulers said, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name.”
- After flogging them, they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus.
- The apostles left, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.
- After Saul’s Damascus road experience, God told Ananias, “I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

Who is the Holy Spirit

- Often confusing
- Not mentioned much in the OT
- Third part of the Trinity
- Is God
- Romans 8. 9
 - *“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”*

The Holy Spirit

- Jehovah's Witnesses state in their *Watchtower* publication, "... God's holy spirit is not a God, not a member of a trinity, not coequal, and is not even a person... It is God's active force..."
- A fundamentalist church preacher was recently asked about the Holy Spirit's role today, and he said the only place we find the Holy Spirit today is in the pages of the Bible.
- On the other end of the spectrum, in some charismatic circles, the focus has rested on the showiness of the charismatic gifts, with **some** teaching that the **absence** of splashy gifts is a sign of spiritual immaturity.

The Holy Spirit

- The One through whom we draw near to Jesus – our relationship with God is through the Holy Spirit.
- He participated in creation (Gen. 1:2). He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (Jn. 16:8-11). He is the one who reveals the word of God and inspires the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:20-21).
- He is distinct from the Father and Son: *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.* (Rom. 8:9)
- The Spirit knows the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:10-14)
- The Holy Spirit indwells the community of the Church in a special way. *Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* (1 Cor. 3:16).

Why Spirit Referred to as fire

- Exodus 3. 2
 - “There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.”
- Exodus 3. 21
 - “And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.”
- Exodus 19. 18
 - “Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain^[b] trembled violently.”
- Deuteronomy 4. 24
 - “For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”

Who killed Jesus?

- P 392 of the Story

Acts 1. 8 – Stephen & God’s Mandate

- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Saul → Paul

Peter in the Gospels

Peter after Pentecost

John 17. 11-12

- “¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.”

1 Corinthians 12. 7-11

- “⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

Matthew 3. 11

- “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

John 14. 16

- “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever...”

Ephesians 3. 16

- “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being...”

THE UPPER STORY

The Lower Story