

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## THE BOOK OF ACTS

### Fruitage of the Ministry

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Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

In the name of Christ Jesus abides the supreme power of the Initiate. "At his name every knee shall bow," said Paul. The word "amen" is composed of two masculine and two feminine letters, correlated to the four principles of Fire, Air, Water and Earth. One who can properly intone this name controls all the denizens and forces of the four elements — power acquired by the Disciples on that most momentous Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:42-46

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

And all that believed were together, and had all things in common;

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with a gladness and singleness of heart.

In this description of the life of early Christian communities is found also the ideal of the New Age communal life, wherein fellowship and brotherhood will be practiced and demonstrated. It is only the practical daily living of fellowship that will open the doors of the Temple of Wisdom. Man will never find the light until he has learned to

manifest the spirit of brotherhood. The study of books gives only an intellectual concept of these truths; but one who touches them at first hand is he who *lives* the principles upon which they are founded.

The beautiful life of these early Christians was a great magnet of attraction. There were no caste or clan distinctions — no patrician, no plebian, no rich, no poor. The neophytes lived together, each one accepted and treated as a brother. Their communities were centers of love and helpfulness, from which no one was ever barred. They observed extreme simplicity in all things that they might win people away from the immoral and dissolute habits of the passing Taurean order.

Remarkable spiritual powers were developed and manifested among these people. The innermost group had found a complete reunion with their Master and He was often in their midst, strengthening, encouraging, and inspiring them. They had learned also to follow Him into that high spiritual home world of which He had told them, "thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards."

Despite the cloud of persecution and martyrdom which constantly overshadowed them, these early Christians were filled with a deep spiritual ecstasy beyond compare. Each evening in joyous reverence all gathered about a frugal evening meal — called in Greek the *agape*, or love feast. This was followed by a study period and celebration of the Eucharist. The latter was limited to the spiritually advanced. Through its *right* observance, new and extended powers of healing, prophesy and vision were developed among them, together with the ability to commune with their beloved Master at will.

*The Church at Jerusalem*

The little community at Jerusalem lived at first under the guidance of the twelve Disciples, led by Peter. Later, as their work expanded, a council of elders and seven deacons were added. This community life was continued during the second and third centuries A.D., under the guidance of disciples of the original Twelve. Ignatius, of the Church of Antioch, and Polycarp, of Smyrna, both disciples of John, were notable examples.

It was when formal ritualism and ceremonialism superseded the spirit of unity and fellowship that the true spiritual light was lost. The substitution of the *letter* for the *spirit* inevitably conceals the true light, after which teachers become merely blind leaders of the blind.

Acts 3:1-6, 9-11

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entereth into the temple;

Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

And they knew that it was he who sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's greatly wondering.

have a deeper meaning connected with Initiation. In the instance of healing of the lame man by the gate Beautiful, the temple signifies the etheric sphere which can be entered only by way of the beautiful gate of the body, the heart. Peter typifies the power of faith and John the power of love. Every one is lame, and lingers for forty years (a period of preparation) before this beautiful gate, entrance into the new and larger spiritual life. The gate, decorated in silver and gold, opened into the court of women, representative of the Feminine Principle, image-building faculty, through which the love nature is purified. In the combined powers of love and faith all mankind shall eventually come to be healed and enter into wholeness through Initiation, walking and praising God.

Acts 3:16

And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

“According to your faith be it unto you” is a mystic temple maxim as yet but little understood by humanity.

Ability to use properly the power of the *name* of Christ Jesus makes every kind of material gain seem worthless by comparison. Peter and John had found this power on the Day of Pentecost. The words *name* and *amen* are composed of the same four letters; both are invocations to the four elements. Anyone familiar with the magic power involved in such an invocation is moved to exclaim with Faust, “All honor evermore to the elemental four.”

Peter describes the life events of Christ Jesus and speaks also of that which is the choice of every man — perfect wholeness.



All healings and miracles in the Bible