



ACTS

—
Church in Waiting

*“Praying, Trusting,
and Obeying”*

Acts 1:12-26

OF THE

Holy Spirit

HLCE Theme 2026

Church on the Move Acts 1:8

The Spirit Empowered Mission and Service

The call to live the kingdom life with the risen Christ by His Spirit in our daily life bearing good witnesses to Him for the expansion of His kingdom until His return.

A Joyful Abundant Fruitful Life of the Spirit



Church on the Move

Empowerment of the Spirit from Acts

*In calling, guiding, uniting,
equipping, purifying,
and expanding the
church of Jesus Christ.*

The Book of Acts

Acts 1:1-11

Preparation of the church to move out by His Spirit

- **Prepare**
Get Ready to Move
- **Power**
The Mission and The Power
- **Promise**
The Motivation for Mission



Acts 1:12–26 Church in Waiting

Our Anxious Waiting

- Breakthrough in life, business, career, plan.
- Illness – diagnosis, treatment, recovery.
- Relationships restoration
- Conflict resolution



Acts 1:12–26

Church in Waiting:

“Praying, Trusting, Obeying”

**Cultivating the Heart
of Quiet Faithfulness
in the kingdom life**

- *Persistent United Prayer*
- *Trusting in God’s Word*
- *Obedient Submission
to God’s Will*



I. Prayerful Waiting

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.



The Church Looks Upward in Persistent United Prayer

Persistent Prayer

'constantly in prayer'

United Prayer

The gospel created a new family

"They all joined together"

NKJV *"One accord in prayer"*

Same heart, direction, and
dependence on God.



II. The Church Moves Forward by Trusting God's Word

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.'

God's Word governs God's people

Peter from Impulsiveness to Discerning





OLD TESTAMENT

Active Waiting

Discernment and Action

Guided by Scripture, Not Sentiment

**They understood Judas' betrayal of Jesus
from Ps. 41:9 quoted by Jesus in John 13:18**

*“Even my close friend, someone I trusted,
one who shared my bread, has turned against me.”*

Know what to do with Judas' replacement from Scripture

20 'For,' said Peter, 'it is written in the Book of Psalms: "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it," and, "May another take his place of leadership."

- Psalm 69:25**
- Psalm 109:8**



Chosen by Spiritual Criteria

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time...²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.'

One from the beginning and a witness of the resurrection

A fully devoted mature disciple who was taught and trained personally by Jesus.



III. The Church Moves Inward in Obedient to God's Will

23 So they nominated two men...

24 Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen...' 26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias.

Prayer and Casting Lots

After choosing two with discernment

Submission to God's will

*The church moves by humble trust,
not by human control*



Church in Waiting

*Three Movements in Cultivating
the Heart of Quiet Faithfulness:*

- **Upward in Persistent
United Prayer**
- **Forward in Trusting
God's Word**
- **Inwards in Obedient
Submission to God's Will**





Kingdom Life: Quiet Faithfulness Before Powerful Witnessing

**God values faithfulness in waiting
as much as boldness in witnessing**

- *Before power comes prayer*
- *Before mission comes obedience*
- *Before movement comes submission*

Application: Upward in Persistent United Prayer

A church on the move is first a church in prayer

- *Is prayer central or peripheral in our church?*
- *Are we united in dependence prayer or divided in preferences?*



Move Forward in Trusting God's Word

A church that moves
without the Word
will soon lose its way

- *Do we interpret life through Scripture or Scripture through our feelings?*
- *Are our decisions shaped by the Bible or by pragmatism – what works and feel good?*



Inwards in Obedient Submission to God's Will

A church on the move learns to release control to God

- *Are we willing to obey even when outcomes are uncertain?*
- *Do we trust God's choice more than our preference?*





HLCE Theme 2026 - Church on the Move

The Spirit Empowered Mission and Service

Are You Praying, Trusting, Submitting?

- Move Upward in Prayer
- Move Forward in the Word
- Move Inward in God's Sovereign Hand

Acts 1:12–26

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. ¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)



16 and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.

17 He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.' 18 (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. 19 Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 'For,' said Peter, 'it is written in the Book of Psalms: "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it," and, "May another take his place of leadership."



21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, 22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.' 23 So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen 25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.' 26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

