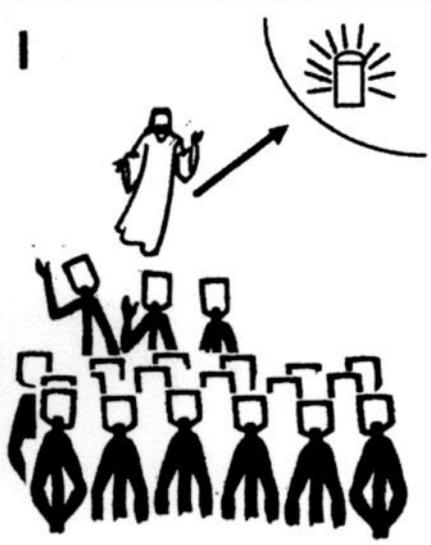


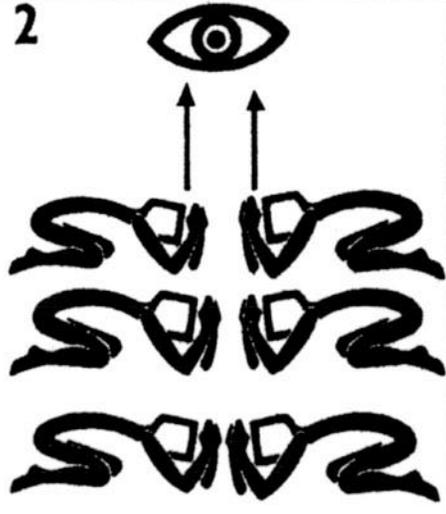
LESSON 2

THE DISCIPLES ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **Acts 1.4-5.** Before Jesus ascended to heaven he gathered his disciples together and gave them instructions. "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit." "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" **Acts 1.8.** After Jesus said this he was taken up to heaven (**Acts 1.9-11.**)
2. **Acts 1.12-14.** The disciples were also called apostles. (An apostle is a person who is sent out to do a special work). The apostles did what Jesus said and they returned to Jerusalem to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
They gathered in the upper room of someone's house and constantly prayed. The apostles realized that in their own strength they could not do the work that Jesus had given them to do. They were earnestly seeking to be cleansed and baptized with the Holy Spirit. The apostles were now humble and of one mind and there was not any competition amongst them.
3. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, about 120 believers were gathered in one place. This was a special day called the day of Pentecost. At this time **Acts 2.1-4** says, ". . .they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . ." Now let us look at the changes which came into the lives of the apostles after they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. **Acts 4.32.** ". . .The group of believers was one in mind and heart." Before the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, each one wanted to have first place and be in control, but now everyone was united. Jesus had first place and he was Lord of their lives, and they were glad to be his servants.
5. **Acts 6.5-12.** Stephen was a follower of Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. He was richly blessed by God and God's power was working through him. The apostles chose him to help them in their work of caring for widows, and distributing food to needy people. Stephen also performed great miracles among the people, and shared the Good News about Jesus with great power. Some people who were not believers in Jesus, were very opposed to him and what he was doing. They brought him before the Jewish court.
6. **Acts 7.54-60.** Stephen was the first martyr for the Christian faith. While in the court, "Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw God's glory and Jesus standing at the right-hand side of God." "Look!" he said, "I see the Son of Man standing at the right-hand side of God!" After the people heard this they threw Stephen out of the city and stoned him. Just before he died, Stephen knelt and cried out to God. "Lord! Do not remember this sin against them!" **Acts 7.60.** Stephen was a man who was filled with Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit helped him to forgive those who were killing him. Romans 5.5b, "For God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit." Do we have this type of love? Are we ready to suffer for Jesus, and follow him in the hard times as well as in the good times?
7. **Acts 5.27-40** tells us how God was at work in the lives of many people. Many came to follow Jesus. God did many miracles through the apostles, but the High Priest was very jealous and angry about what was happening. The apostles were put in prison and brought to court, but they were not afraid. They said, "we must obey God, not men." After some discussions it was decided that the apostles should not be put to death. **Acts 5.40** says, "they were whipped and ordered to never again speak in the name of Jesus." Then they released the apostles.
8. **Acts 5.41.** The apostles went outside rejoicing because God had considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of Jesus. Before Pentecost, the apostles were not filled with the Holy Spirit, and they ran away when they thought they might be beaten and killed. But now the Holy Spirit gave them boldness to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. They were not afraid to suffer or even die for the sake of Jesus.
9. **Acts 5.42** says, "And every day in the temple and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus." Threats and sufferings did not stop them from preaching the Good News and witnessing. What a wonderful change came into the lives of the apostles after Pentecost.
 - Instead of seeking first place, they became servants.
 - Instead of being angry and returning evil for evil, they had love and compassion, and a forgiving spirit.
 - Instead of running away when things got difficult, they were bold and stood strong for their faith in Jesus.
 - They were even ready to die for their faith if necessary.



ACTS 1.4-11



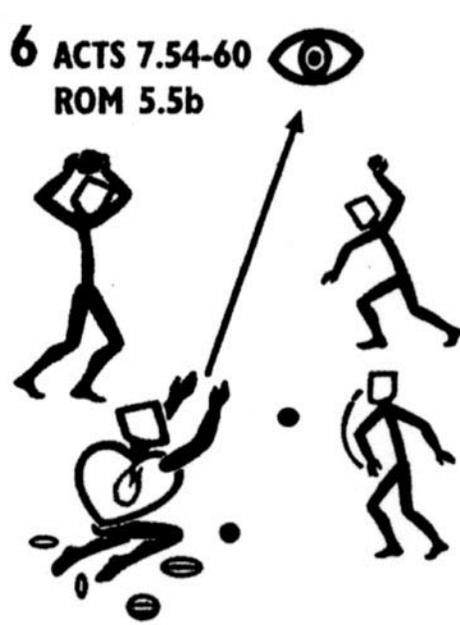
ACTS 1.12-14



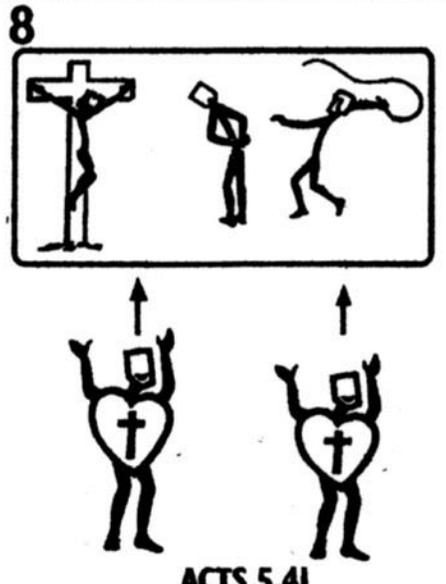
ACTS 2.1-4



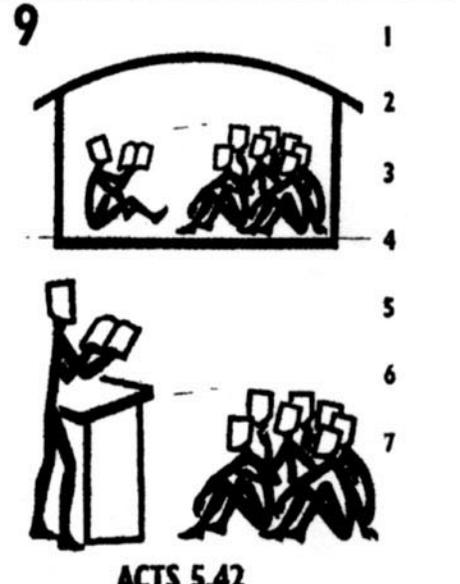
ACTS 4.32



ACTS 5.27-40



ACTS 5.41



ACTS 5.42