

Session 12



EMPOWERED

Session 12: Empowered to Finish Well

Primary Scripture

Acts 27–28

Introduction — When the Journey Feels Long

Most people begin new things with excitement.

New beginnings often bring:

- hope
- energy
- expectation
- and vision for what could be

But over time, reality becomes more complicated.

The longer the journey lasts, the more believers encounter:

- exhaustion
- setbacks
- disappointment
- uncertainty
- and seasons where faithfulness feels difficult

By Acts 27, Paul has spent years:

- preaching
- traveling
- suffering
- enduring opposition
- and continuing the mission of Jesus through hardship after hardship

And yet the story is still not finished.

Acts ends with:

- storms
- shipwreck

- uncertainty
- waiting
- and ongoing mission

Which is important because Acts intentionally ends unfinished.

The Gospel is still moving outward.

The Holy Spirit is still working.

The mission is still continuing.

This final session explores an important question:

How does the Holy Spirit help believers remain faithful over the long journey of life and discipleship?

Because Spirit-led living is not only about powerful beginnings.

It is also about enduring faithfulness.

Movement 1 — The Holy Spirit Sustains Believers Through Storms

Acts 27 describes a violent storm at sea.

Read Scripture: Acts 27:13–20

Eventually:

- the crew loses visibility
- the ship loses control
- supplies are thrown overboard
- and hope begins to disappear

Acts says:

“At last all hope was gone.”

This is important because even faithful believers experience seasons where life feels:

- overwhelming
- chaotic
- uncertain
- or emotionally exhausting

Spirit-led living does not remove storms from life.

But the Holy Spirit remains present within them.

Read Scripture: Isaiah 43:1–2

Read Scripture: Psalm 46:1–3

The storm in Acts 27 was real.

The fear was real.

The uncertainty was real.

And yet God had not abandoned them.

This matters deeply because many people quietly assume:

- if life becomes difficult, God must be distant
- if faith feels hard, something must be wrong
- or if suffering continues, the Holy Spirit must no longer be working

But Acts reminds believers:

the Holy Spirit remains faithful even in seasons where visibility disappears and the future feels uncertain.

Reflection

What storms or uncertainties are most affecting your life right now?

How do difficult seasons affect your awareness of God's presence?

Movement 2 — The Holy Spirit Produces Steadiness in Uncertain Seasons

In the middle of the storm, Paul remains remarkably steady.

Read Scripture: Acts 27:21–26

Paul does not deny reality.

He acknowledges:

- danger
- fear

- and hardship

But he also remains anchored in trust.

This is important because the Holy Spirit produces a kind of inner steadiness that circumstances alone cannot explain.

Spirit-led peace is not:

- pretending everything is fine
- emotional numbness
- or forced optimism

It is confidence that God remains present and faithful even when outcomes remain unclear.

Read Scripture: Philippians 4:6–7

Read Scripture: John 14:26–27

This kind of steadiness becomes deeply important in fearful times.

People are constantly shaped by:

- anxiety
- outrage
- uncertainty
- bad news
- and emotional exhaustion

But the Holy Spirit continually forms believers who remain:

- prayerful
- grounded
- hopeful
- and attentive to God's presence

And importantly:

Paul's steadiness affects everyone around him.

Spirit-led faithfulness often becomes a source of strength for others.

Reflection

Who around you is affected by the way you respond to stress, fear, or uncertainty?

What helps you remain spiritually grounded during difficult seasons?

Movement 3 — The Holy Spirit Continues Working Even Through Setbacks

Eventually, the ship is destroyed.

Read Scripture: Acts 27:39–44

The storm is not magically avoided.

The shipwreck still happens.

And yet everyone survives safely.

This matters because the Holy Spirit often continues working through situations that still involve:

- loss
- disappointment
- change
- or disruption

Many people assume God’s faithfulness means:

“Nothing painful will happen.”

But Scripture repeatedly shows something different.

Sometimes:

- plans change
- expectations collapse
- ministries shift
- relationships disappoint
- and life becomes very different than people imagined

And still:

God continues working.

Read Scripture: Romans 8:28

Read Scripture: Genesis 50:20

This is deeply important for Spirit-led living.

The Holy Spirit does not only work through visible success.

The Spirit also works through:

- perseverance
- resilience
- surrender
- humility
- and ongoing trust when life feels unfinished

And importantly:

shipwreck was not the end of Paul's mission.

God still had work to do.

Reflection

Where have disappointment or unexpected change shaped your spiritual journey?

How might God still be working in situations that feel unfinished or painful?

Movement 4 — The Holy Spirit Keeps the Mission Moving Forward

Acts 28 ends in an unusual way.

Paul is still under guard.

The story feels incomplete.

And yet the Gospel continues moving outward.

Read Scripture: Acts 28:30–31

This ending matters deeply.

Acts intentionally leaves the story open because the mission of Jesus is still continuing through the Church.

The Holy Spirit is still:

- guiding
- empowering
- transforming
- sending
- and forming believers today

The story did not end with Acts.

And Spirit-led living means recognizing that believers are still participants in the ongoing work of God.

Read Scripture: Matthew 28:18–20

Read Scripture: Philippians 1:6

This is deeply hopeful.

The Church has faced:

- persecution
- division
- failure
- weakness
- and countless challenges throughout history

And yet the Holy Spirit continues working.

The mission continues.

Lives continue changing.

The Gospel continues moving outward.

And ordinary believers continue participating in the work Jesus began.

This is the great invitation of Acts.

Not merely to admire the early Church.

But to become people who continue living with dependence on the Holy Spirit today.

Reflection

Where do you most need perseverance, hope, or renewed trust right now?

How has this series challenged or expanded your understanding of the Holy Spirit?

What does Spirit-dependent living look like for you moving forward?

A Note on the Ongoing Work of the Holy Spirit

The Book of Acts never truly ends.

The Holy Spirit continues:

- guiding believers
- forming the Church
- convicting hearts
- empowering mission
- sustaining faithfulness
- and pointing people toward Jesus

Sometimes the Spirit works through:

- dramatic moments
- answered prayers
- or unexpected breakthroughs

And often the Spirit works through:

- quiet endurance
- ordinary faithfulness

- gradual transformation
- compassionate presence
- and believers who continue trusting God through long seasons of life

The goal of Spirit-led living is not spiritual performance.

It is ongoing participation with the presence and work of God.

Formation Practice (This Week)

Practice: Remembering God's Faithfulness

Each day this week:

Step 1 — Read Slowly

Read portions of Acts 27–28 slowly each day.

Pay attention to:

- the storm
- Paul's steadiness
- the setbacks
- and the continued movement of the Gospel

Step 2 — Reflect on Your Journey

Spend time reflecting honestly on your own spiritual journey.

Where have you experienced:

- storms
- setbacks
- unexpected changes
- or seasons where God still remained faithful?

Write them down.

Step 3 — Practice Gratitude

Each day, name three ways you have seen evidence of God's faithfulness over time.

Not only dramatic moments.

Also ordinary ones.

Step 4 — Pray for Endurance

Pray:

“Holy Spirit, help me remain faithful and attentive to Your presence through every season of life.”

Living It Out

What season of life currently requires the greatest endurance or trust from you?

Where have you seen God remain faithful even through disappointment or uncertainty?

How do you sense the Holy Spirit continuing to form and guide your life moving forward?

Final Reflection

Acts ends with the mission still moving forward.

The Holy Spirit continues working:

- through ordinary believers
- through difficult seasons
- through endurance
- through courage
- and through faithful participation in the ongoing work of Jesus

The story is not finished.

And neither is God’s work in your life.

The question is not:

“Is the Holy Spirit still active today?”

The question is:

“Will we continue living with dependence on the Spirit as the journey continues?”

Weekly Prayer

Holy Spirit,

When the journey feels long,
help me remain faithful.

When life feels uncertain,
help me remain grounded in Your presence.

Give me endurance in difficult seasons,
hope in moments of discouragement,
and courage to continue following Jesus wherever You lead.

Thank You for Your faithfulness through every storm,
every setback,
and every new beginning.

Continue forming my life into the likeness of Christ,
and help me remain attentive to Your work as the story continues.

Amen.