



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF

ACTS

12 (ACT)IONS TO BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST





THE JOURNEY BEGINS

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

Over the next several weeks, we will be reviewing and revisiting the Book of Acts as it pertains to the development and engagement of spiritual habits, or as we like to call them - (act)ions. The Book of Acts is a book of action. Miracles, signs and wonders fill the pages of the book. And many times we reflect back to those powerful moments and declare how we desire to see those things happen again in the middle of our lives, our church worship experiences, and our families. But to understand the power that was on display in the Book of Acts, we have to understand the personal preparation and consecration that was happening behind the scenes. Through that understanding, we have to develop for ourselves those spiritual actions and strive to make them active every day of our lives, as the believers in the Book of Acts did.

FAITH WITHOUT “(ACT)ION” IS DEAD:

In this devotional you will notice we have 3 basic sections for each (act)ion, the “Why”, “Taking (Act)ion”, and “Prayer”. These sections are meant to help provide context for each topic and ways you can begin putting them into action followed by a personal prayer to help you seek God’s help and guidance as you strive to develop those habits in your daily life.

Additionally, there is a “Notes” sections for each topic to take notes of the messages being preached on each subject during our journey, notes from personal bible study on each topic or for you to journal your thoughts, prayers, successes and challenges you are facing in developing those (act)ions in your life.

As we open our hearts to what God is desiring to speak into us in the course of this journey, let’s remember the words of Apostle James that said “faith without works is dead” - *James 2:26*. Together, let’s put into action these (act)ions as we strive to become more like Christ.



SPIRITUAL (ACT)IONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS

WHY?

The Book of Acts reflects the “actions” of the Apostles as they carried out the mission of Jesus Christ. During the first few chapters of that book we discover something very significant about the explosive atmosphere that enveloped that time period and the entire book of Acts. The believers **continued**, but not only did they just continue, they **continued daily** in prayers, and the apostles doctrine, and meeting with each other, and breaking bread, etc. Why is that significant? It points to the power that spiritual actions such as prayer, reading of God’s Word, giving, worship and many others had in producing an environment for the miraculous to take place. What it really points to is spiritual habits for the purpose of developing godliness, or God-likeness, in the church body. *Acts 2:42-47, Acts 14:22*

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Commit to developing spiritual (act)ions or habits.
2. Strive to put into (act)ion those habits on a daily basis.
3. Surrender your will to God’s will so those habits can begin to produce the fruit of godliness (God-likeness) in our lives.
4. Pray for an heart, mind and spirit to the prompting of God throughout the next several weeks as we focus on developing these actions in our lives.

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for opening the pathway to becoming more like you through your sacrifice on the Cross. Thank you Lord for giving me power to put into action these habits through your Spirit. Help me to have an open heart, a surrendered will, and a teachable spirit so that You may produce in me a character and spirit that is more like you, in Jesus Name.



(ACT)ION THROUGH THE WORD

WHY?

The Word of God assures us that we can receive eternal life, gives us direction in making decisions, faith to our hearts, strength to our spirit, becomes our sword and shield, brings understanding to the issues of life, supplies strength to overcome sin, and brings blessing upon our lives. The greatest aspect is that the LORD reveals Himself to us through His Word. That the One True God desires for us to know Him and have relationship with Him through His Word is amazing.

Jn 3:3-8;16; Ps 119:105; Rom 10:17; Matt 4:4; Eph 6:17-18; Ps 119:130; Ps 119:11; Ps 1:1-3; Heb 8:10-11; Jn 14:21

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Meditate upon the Word of God - *Psalms 1:1-2*
2. Study by digging deeper into the meaning of scriptures - *2 Timothy 2:15*
3. Develop and maintain a teachable spirit in the church - *Ephesians 4:11-12*
4. Participate in daily reading and discussion in the home - *Deuteronomy 6:6-9*

PRAAYER:

Lord Jesus I ask for you to create a strong desire in my heart for you and the knowledge of you through your Word. Give me a Spirit of revelation and understanding to enlighten my spiritual eyes, speak to me through your Word daily and let it be a lamp to my feet to guide my paths. Give me a teachable spirit that I may grow in you and in the knowledge of you. Help me to receive your words and to hide them in my heart, incline my ear to receive knowledge, wisdom and understanding. In Jesus name I pray.

Phill 2:13; Matt 5:6; Job 23:12; 1 Cor 2:11-13; Eph 1:16-18; Ps 119:105; 2 Pet 3:18; Prov 2: 1-6



(ACTION) THROUGH PRAYER

WHY?

Prayer is God's plan for the church, it is the place that he has chosen to meet with and commune with His people. We are told to come to Him in prayer with confidence to find grace and to obtain mercy in the time of our need. It is He that understands our weaknesses and understands that there are times we won't know how to pray as we should but in those times He would assist us by His Spirit. The power of prayer with God is seen in that men and women prayed and their nation was changed, they were able to change the mind of God, cause the sun to stand still, they stopped the rain, saved their nephew from the judgment of God, a mans character was changed and prison doors were opened. The supreme need of this hour is for the power of prayer to be once again demonstrated in the church.

Mark 11:17; Ex 25:22; Heb 4:16; Rom 8:26-27; 1 Sam 1:9-20- 1 Sam 3:19-20; Ex 32:9-14; Joshua 10:12-14 James 5:17-18; Gen 18:23-33- Gen 19:15-16; Gen 32:24-28- Hosea 12:3-4; Acts 12:5-12

TAKING (ACTION):

1. Strive towards praying morning, noon & evening - *Ex 30:6-8; Rev 5:8; Ps 55:17*
2. Maintain a spirit of prayer throughout the day - *1 Thess 5:17; Rom 1:9; 2 Tim 1:3*
3. Praying with my spirit - *1 Cor 14: 14*
4. Praying with my understanding - *1 Cor 14:15*
5. Praying by His Spirit - *Rom 8:26-27*
6. Praying with desire and faith - *Luke 11:5-10; Luke 18:1-8*
7. Praying with a thankful heart - *Phill 4:6; Col 4:2*

PRAYER:

Lord we ask you to give us your grace that your church can once again be a house of prayer. Let our desire and faith be ignited once again to seek your face and to see your hand at work in our lives, our homes, throughout this city, nation and world. In Jesus Name we pray.



(ACT)ION THROUGH WORSHIP

WHY?

The word “worship” holds many meanings in its use throughout the Bible. It can refer to giving honor and to admire profoundly, respect, to praise, exalt or to give thanksgiving. We also demonstrate a form of worship by our faithfulness and serving in His church. The one form of worship that the LORD seeks for and distinguishes us as a “true worshiper” is when we willingly lay down our lives with a love and thankfulness to the one who bought us with a price and we glorify Him with our bodies and our spirits which have been surrendered to Him. *1 Cor 6:19-20*

John 4:23-24 (KJV)

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers shall worship** the Father in spirit and in truth: for **the Father seeketh such to worship him.***

Worship: *proskyneō* (meaning **to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand**); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literal or figurative) **prostrate oneself in homage** (do reverence to, adore)

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Make Worship a lifestyle, or in other words, strive to develop inward holiness which reflects outwardly in all areas of our lives - *Ps 29:2; Luke 1:72-75; Rom 6:19-22; 2 Cor 7:1*
2. Through our Praise - *Ps 66:4; Ps 138:2; Ps 100:4*
3. Serving Him - *Ex 9:1; Duet 10:12; Matt 4:10; Rom 12:1-2; Col 3:23-24*

PRAYER:

Lord reveal your great love towards me that I am able to truly love and worship you. Give me a thankful heart that is surrendered to you that I may serve you all the days of my life. In Jesus name I pray.



(ACT)ION THROUGH EVANGELISM

WHY?

We speak of the power of Gods Spirit many times in reference to seeing healings and miracles. The power which Christ spoke of when we receive His Spirit was the power to be witnesses unto Him. We are commanded that wherever we find ourselves, we are to bear witness to others of the saving power of God by our words and actions. It is eternally important that we speak to others about Christ, but the greatest witness to others is how we live our lives before them. We are the salt and the light to the world and by this shall all men know that we are His disciples, when we demonstrate love one towards another. **Evangelism is a lifestyle.**

Acts 1:8; Matt 16:15; Prov 24:11-12; Matt 5:13-16; Jn 13:35

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Become a **vocal witness** of the Gospel **through our words** - Rom 10:14-15; Mark 16:15; Ps 96:1-3; Ps 145:4-12; Ezek 3:18-19
2. Becoming a **visual witness** of the Gospel **by how we live our lives** - Matt 5:13-16; Matt 7:17-18; Jn 13:35

PRAYER:

Lord let your desire to save and seek the lost become my desire. Use me as a vessel of prayer, and as a voice to those who don't know you. Let my life speak to others as they see your Spirit working through me. In Jesus name I pray.



(ACT)ION THROUGH SERVING

WHY?

It was David who served Saul before he ever became King, Samuel served Eli before he ever became Priest and Prophet, Joshua served Moses before he ever became the leader of His nation, Elisha served Elijah before he ever became the Prophet of Israel. Serving is an attitude of humility in the heart that Peter states we should be clothed with. Jesus said, we should first desire to minister and serve others before being ministered unto. Jesus is our example and we are instructed to have the same mind as Christ, who though He was God, emptied Himself and took upon the form of a servant and was obedient unto death. Jesus' final words to us if we are to make it into His eternal Kingdom are "well done thy good and faithful **servant**". That states the eternal importance of having a heart to serve.

1 Sam 16:21; 1 Sam 3:1; Ex 24:13; 2 Kings 3:11; 1 Pet 5:5; Matt 20: 26-28; Phil 2:5-7; Matt 25:20-21

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Serving the Body of Chris, which is the Church - *1 Cor 12:12-18*
2. Using our gifts and talents - *Matt 25: 14-30*
3. Serving the needs of others - *Matt 25: 31-40*

PRAYER:

Lord I ask you to give unto me a heart of a servant and help me to minister to the needs of your people and to the needs of others. Thank you for the gifts and talents you have imparted in me and grant me your grace to use them to serve you in your Kingdom, in Jesus Name.



(ACT)ION THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

WHY?

Stewardship is now generally recognized as the acceptance or assignment of responsibility to shepherd and safeguard the valuables of others. This is why the LORD gave us the parable of the talents, so that we would understand the eternal importance of using wisely the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted us with. Being a good steward in these three areas should not only bring a blessing to our lives but should also be a blessing to the Kingdom of God and His people.

TAKING (ACT)ION:

- 1. Determine to use** and develop our talents for God's Kingdom - *Matt 25: 14-30*
- 2. Commit to giving** of our Treasure (financial resources) through regularly giving of both tithes (10% of my income) and offerings (an amount that is by faith and should be in proportion to our tithes) - *Luke 12:16-21, Malachi 3:10-11*
- 3. Prioritize our time** with respect to the Kingdom of God in order to support the work of the local church through volunteering. - *Matt 6:33-34; John 9:4*

PRAVER:

Psalm 39:4-5 (KJV)

LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

James 4:14 (KJV)

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.



(ACT)ION THROUGH FASTING

WHY?

Fasting is a spiritual discipline used as a means to the humbling of ones soul and bringing the natural passion of the body into subjection. When fasting is accompanied with prayer in seeking the LORD it creates a sensitivity within our spirit to the things of God's Spirit. It is not a means used for the LORD to hear us, but to help bring us in alignment with His will and creating a change within us.

Ps 35:13; Ps 69:10; Dan 9:3; Joel 2:12-13; Isa 58:3-8

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Engage in fasting individually on a regular basis - *Dan 9:3; 2 Sam 12:16; Neh 1:4*
2. Practice your fasting in secret as a personal consecration to God - *Matt 6: 16-18*
3. Participate corporately in fasting with the entire Body of Christ (The Church) during seasons of spiritual emphasis, etc. - *Judges 20:26; 1 Sam 7:5-6; Ezra 8:21*

PRAYER:

Lord, I ask for your grace to lead me and give me the strength to fast as you would have me to fast and pray. Stir the desire within me to seek you with all my heart, for without your grace I can do nothing, in Jesus Name.



(ACT)ION THROUGH SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

WHY?

Our days are filled with music, computers, movies, news and all the stress, noise and confusion that comes from life. Because of this, there is a great need for us to find a place of silence and solitude. Our soul and spirit need time to discern and ponder all the voices and situations that demand our attention daily. Even the LORD had to find a solitary place for himself after ministering to the needs of others. The reason many of us are overcome by the stress of life is we have not learned the secret of silence and solitude with the LORD. *Gen 24:63; Mark 1:34-35; Ps 63:5-6*

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Be intentional about setting aside time for quiet reflection - *Mark 6:30-32*
2. Strive to set aside that time in the evening as the stress of the day comes to a close - *Ps 63: 5-6; Ps 4:3-4*
3. Discover the power and peace of silence and solitude in prayer - *Matt 6:6; Mark 1:35; Phil 4:6-7*

PRAYER:

*LORD let your peace overshadow me and lead me to the place of your peace.
Help me daily to find that solitary place of silence and solitude, in Jesus Name.*



(ACT)ION THROUGH JOURNALING

WHY?

Of all of the 12 (act)ions, journaling is probably the most ambiguous. The Bible doesn't specifically talk about journaling, however, the Bible does specify in several areas the significance of writing God's Word in our hearts and meditating on his Word. God also speaks of the power of remembrance and memorials for his people to record the great things God has done for them. Journaling is a powerful tool to help reflect on the truths that God's Word is speaking to us and keep record of the things God has done and is doing in our lives. Journaling can be a very liberating experience and provide a powerful point of reflection as we look into the mirror of God's Word and review where God has brought us from, where he is taking us, and his promises to us on the journey.

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Record the things which God has done or helped you through.
2. Write out questions that come to mind as you study God's Word to review for further study.
3. Express your thoughts and feelings during times of prayer and in times of silence and solitude.

BEGIN NOW:

In the extended "Notes" section at the back of this devotional, take some time to reflect on what God has been speaking to you about over the last several weeks and write those thoughts down. Record the promises he has spoken and the challenges you are facing. List action steps you can take to draw closer to Him. When you are finished, take some time to pray and thank God for his blessings and promises.



(ACT)ION THROUGH LEARNING

WHY?

David instructed his son Solomon that the most important thing for him to get was wisdom and understanding. Wisdom, he said would keep, preserve, promote and bring honor and add years to his life. Years later Solomon wrote, “ A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:”. The LORD has given us a promise that if we would lift up our voice and cry out for knowledge and understanding and seek for it as hidden treasure then He would teach us himself, with the promise that it would be a shield, protector, and would preserve us and lead us in every good path. *Prov 4:1-13; Prov 1:1-6; Prov 2: 3-9*

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Embrace the attributes of Listening and Reading - Prov 4:20-22
2. Desire a teachable spirit of learning - Prov 18: 1-2; Prov 2: 3-5; 1 Pet 2:2
3. Observe and learn from the lives of others - Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10: 6-12; Prov 11:14; Prov 19:20
4. Personally study - 2 Tim 2:15; 2 Pet 3:18

PRAYER:

LORD grant unto me a teachable spirit and help me to grow in the knowledge of you and in your wisdom and understanding. Let it guide me all the days of my life. In Jesus name.



(ACT)ION THROUGH PERSEVERANCE

WHY?

Words such as diligence, patience, endurance, to stand or stand fast were all words used when writing to the churches in the New Testament. They wanted every believer to be aware that there were going to be times of trials and afflictions and without perseverance we would succumb to them. This is why the patriarchs of the Old Testament were given as examples to encourage us that just as they persevered and received the promises so are we able.

2 Pet 1:4-11; Heb 6:11-12; 1 Cor 16:13; Eph 6:13-14; Mark 13:13; 2 Thess 1:4; James 5:10-11

TAKING (ACT)ION:

1. Adding to our Faith - *2 Pet 1:4-11*
2. Putting on and maintaining our Armour of God - *Eph 6: 10-18*
3. Understanding we are not alone and others have Persevered - *James 5: 10-11; 1 Pet 5:8-11*
4. Knowing that the LORD is Faithful - *Jn 14:18, 27; Phill 4:6-7; Rom 8:35-39; Heb 13:5-6*

PRAYER:

LORD I thank you for your faithfulness and knowing that nothing shall ever separate me from your love. Keep me by your grace and help me in the times of the trials of this life, knowing I am able to stand by your Word and your Spirit. In Jesus Name.







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