



ALL IN 2

Acts of the Holy Spirit ...through the Apostles

Focused Living Ministries

16th century polish astronomer Copernicus believed in a helio-centric solar system, in which the sun, rather than the earth, was the center of our solar system. This turned science upside down and man's ego inside out. His idea was rejected by the scientists because they could not handle the facts. He was rejected by the pastors because they could not

handle God's truth. Breaking news... world does **NOT** revolve around you. The earth revolves around the sun and all of creation revolves around The SON (Col 1:15-20)! It's not about you. It's all about Him! "If there is no God, nothing really matters. If there is a God, nothing else really matters." (HG Wells) What would God say your life really revolves around these days? Why? (Wife? Calendar? Check book?)

THEME BOOK This year we are asking God to grow us to become **ALL IN** men whose lives revolve around the SON, not our agendas, rights, plans, ambitions or desires. He who is wrapped up in himself makes a very small package! Together we'll discover His **ALL IN** truths from Acts. God wrote the Gospel of Luke through Dr. Luke so that his friend, Theophilus, could know the "the exact truth" about Christ and come to salvation (Luke 1:1-4). Now, in the book of Acts Dr. Luke again writes his buddy to describe all that Jesus continues to do to grow us into **ALL IN** men through the awesome Person of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1-5, 8; 2:1-4; 17-18, 32-33, 37-38; 4:7-12, 27-33; 5:3, 9, 28-33; 6:1-5; 7:51, 54-60; 8:14-17; 8:29-30, 39; 9:17, 31; 10:38, 44-47; 11:12, 15-16, 24; 13:2-4, 9, 52). Why is it absolutely impossible to be **ALL IN** apart from understanding/surrendering to the Spirit?



WHO? Our One God (Deut 6:4) has revealed Himself equally in three Persons. [**Water**= ice, steam, liquid. **Man**=father, son, husband. **Space**= width, height, depth.] The Holy Spirit is the 3rd Person (John 16:13-14 Masculine pronoun) of the Trinity (Gen 1:2; Mt 28:19; John 14:16-17; 1Cor 12:4-6; 2 Cor 13:14; 2Thes 2:13; 1Pet 1:2) possessing

the attributes, character and equal essence with the Father and the Son (1Cor 2:10-11, John 16:13, Luke 1:35, Rom 15:19). He's called the Paracletos (para/along side + kaleo/call) or Comforter (encourage) and Helper (exhort) who is called alongside to grow us into **ALL IN** men. The Spirit is a Person to be obeyed, not a power to be obliged. He.....

regenerates our dead spirit (Titus 3:5; Eph 2:1-10; John 3:5-8)

indwells our bodies (I Cor 3:16; 6:19-20; John 14:15-17)

seals our future for eternity with assurance (Eph 1:13)

guarantees our eternal inheritance (Eph 1:14; II Cor 1:22; Rom. 8:11)

assures our membership in the family of God (I Cor 12:13; Rom 8:16)

teaches us to grow in Christ (I Jn 2:20, 27; I Cor 2:9-16; Jn 14:26)

prays relentlessly for you personally (Rom 8:26-27)

guides us through life in all situations (John 16:13)

grows Christ's character in us (Gal 5:22-25)

empowers us to live for Christ rather than in the flesh (Rom 8:1-11)

inspires us having written the Bible (II Pet. 1:21)

imparts to us each a spiritual gift (I Cor 12:7, 11; I Pet 4:10-11)

emboldens us to Christ's witness/ambassador (Acts 1:8; II Tim. 1:7-8)

encourages while living in a fallen world (John 14:16-18)

transforms and sanctifies us to be like Christ (II Cor. 3:18; I Pet. 1:2)

unifies us when divided (Eph. 2:22; 4:3-4)

glorifies Jesus (John 15:26-27; 16:14)

convicts us of our sin (John 16:8-15)

deepens our thirst for the things of God (John 7:37-39)

ensures hope on both sides of the grave (Rom 15:13)

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT (Eph 5:18) In Acts you will see ordinary men so convinced of God's power, wisdom, love, forgiveness and grace that they were willingly gamble their lives by being **ALL IN**. So what does it mean to be "*filled (plyroo) with the Spirit*"? It means **yielding** every area of your life under the power, influence, guidance and will of God. That is why God describes it as if you were drunk because a man on his way to the bar is willingly making the decision to put his body, will, emotions and mind under the complete influence of alcohol. You'll never see a bottle of scotch chase a man, tackle him and then pour itself down his throat. But you will see men at a bar willingly putting their lives under the influence of a substance that will take over his entire life for a few hours or even a lifetime. God wants us to do the same by continually placing ourselves under the power and authority of the Spirit Who lives inside us. "*Not only am I a clay vessel, I'm a broken vessel! And the only way I can keep full is by staying under the tap of God's Spirit and grace!*" (Dwight L. Moody) According to **Ephesians 5:18-6:20** being filled with the Spirit should daily **empower** us in at least 6 areas of your life. Which of these areas are not under His control in your life? What is keeping you from being **ALL IN**?

Church (Eph 5:19-21)

Marriage (Eph 5:22-33)

Family (Eph 6:1-4)

Work (Eph 6:5-9)

Warfare (Eph 6:10-17)

Witness (Eph 6:18-20)

"Eliminate the supernatural and miraculous and there is no such thing as Christianity." J. Gresham Machen

"Without the supernatural there is no such thing as the virgin birth, the miracles, the atonement, the resurrection, heaven or prayer. Eliminate the supernatural and there can be no God, no Lord Jesus Christ, and, of course, no Holy Spirit." L. Nelson Bell



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION Knowing that God is **ALL IN** through His Spirit living in you, how does this motivate you to be **ALL IN** with God?

ASSIGNMENT This week, are you willing to pray, as King David prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart..." (Ps 139:23,24)? And if He reveals some aspect of your life in which you really are not **ALL IN**, would you commit this area to Him? Once you have committed (roll the dice/gamble) that area to the Lord, write out a prayer mentioning specific ways in which you will align your life with His.



**"How are things going at work?
During your colonoscopy, we found a shoe."**

My Colors Will Be Clear

Norm Nelson



I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished.... done with low living, slight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and with dwarfed goals.

I no longer need prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by His presence, learn by faith, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my compassions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go 'till He comes, give 'till I drop, proclaim 'till all know, and work 'till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me....**for my colors will be clear!**