[**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**](http://timealonewithgod.org/)

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday

[**ACTS 2:1-21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.* Why was the writer so confident that what was happening was the coming of the Holy Spirit (hint: see chapter 1)?
3. Of what significance (if any) were those details like sound of wind, tongues of fire? Were the languages spoken known or unknown languages? What were they saying? What do you think is the significance of all these details that came together with the Holy Spirit? Do you think these are significant signs that accompany the visitation of the Holy Spirit on a person?
4. What is the significance of Peter’s reference to Joel’s prophecy? Is it to explain what is happening (the outpouring of the Holy Spirit) or that this outpouring signals the arrival of “the last days”?
5. What is the significance of “the last days”? What will God do? What is “the great and glorious day of the Lord.”?
6. What does it mean to you, that you are living in *“these last days”*? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**ACTS 2:1-21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Wednesday

[**ACTS 2:22-36**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.* What was Peter’s key emphasis about Jesus?
3. *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.* Peter quoted Psalm 16 to support his claim. How does the resurrection underline Peter’s key emphasis?
4. *God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.* How did Peter link Jesus’ exalted state with what had just happened?
5. *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”* What is the damning conclusion from Peter’s sermon?
6. *God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.* Joel’s prophecy says that the last days will be marked by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on sons and daughters and servants. Do you believe this has happened to you? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**ACTS 2:22-36**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Friday

[**ACTS 2:37-47**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”.* How did Peter respond? What does he mean?
3. *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* In today’s terms, how did those who repented respond? Do you do the same? What were the characteristics of that community that was formed? Do you think the church today should replicate those characteristics? Why?
4. *And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.* What do you think is the cause of such growth?
5. Do you think that the community was what it was because of the active involvement of the Holy Spirit, or because they devoted themselves to teaching and prayer, or because they truly loved one another (as the Lord commands)?
6. Write down a prayer for your own church in response.

# Saturday

[**ACTS 2:37-47**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+2&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Sunday

**THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT**

*“Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”*

*This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.* This is the prophecy coming true before your very eyes. It is now the last days and as God promised, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit has begun.

Why are these the last days? Because Jesus, the Messiah sent by God was crucified, but God raised him from the dead. Jesus is now Lord and is seated at the right hand of God and according to David, God will now make his enemies a footstool for his feet. But in the meantime, Jesus has poured out the promised Holy Spirit on all of us.

The last days were ushered in by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; the event we saw in Acts 2. It was also the day the church was (officially) born. The last days were preceded by the ascension of Jesus to the right hand of God, initiating the work of God to *“make his enemies a footstool for his feet.”* These are the last days because they will culminate on *“the great and glorious day of the Lord”* when final judgement will be meted out but *“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* The last days are also days of great promise, because not only will they be saved, who call on the name of the Lord, they will receive the promised Holy Spirit.

Little is said here about what the Holy Spirit will do (see 2022 Week 06) but it is unmistakable that his outpouring is vital to us who live in the last days. *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* All who align themselves with Jesus, rejecting their alignment with the world and the prince of darkness, God will forgive and bless with the promised Holy Spirit.

At the end of that day of Pentecost, a community was formed, comprising people who have received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Just as the coming of Jesus was brought forth by the Holy Spirit in the form of a baby, so now, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the body of Christ came together as a small community of believers who obeys his command to love one another, who remembers him and his sacrifice through the breaking of bread, as he requested, who seeks to *“remain in him, letting his words remain in them”*, as he taught, and who are not afraid to ask of him (pray), their master and Lord, who has promised that as they seek to glorify God in their fruitfulness, it will be done for them (see 2022 Week 05).

*And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. What conclusion can you draw from the passages of Scripture you have been considering? Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Read the short sharing above. Do they add anything to your own conclusions?
4. Review the past week. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
5. Write down a prayer in response.