

Let's Bake a Cake!

Living a Jesus Centered, Spirit Driven, Faith Fueled Life

Acts: the Body's Blueprint

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Blueprint Cake Components:

- Icing and Decorations: miracles, radical living (evidences of HS)
- Cake layers and fillings: Corporate spiritual vitality
- Ingredients that made the cake: consecrated personal spirituality



1st Layer: Powerhouse of Prayer

- Acts 1:14 - They were **constantly** in prayer together
- Acts 2:1 - They were together praying when the **HS was poured out**
- Acts 2:42 - They **devoted** themselves to ...prayer
- Acts 7: 56, 59-60 - Stephen was praying **for his attackers** even as he was being stoned!
- Acts 10: 9 - Peter was praying when the HS **gave him the truth** about the gentiles
- Acts 12:12 - believers were together praying for Peter so that he could continue the work of preaching the gospel
- Acts 15:25 - Paul & Silas **praising** God in prayer **while wounded** & imprisoned

2nd Layer: Revival Through Relationship

- Acts 1:4-5 - Jesus Promises HS and gives instruction while **communing** with disciples over a meal
- Acts 1:13-14 - Disciples all **together** praying in unity
- Acts 2:42;46 - They **devoted** themselves to ...fellowship; they were daily together living in relationship with each other (**& you better bet those were real, authentic, vulnerable relationships**)
- Acts 10:44-46 - Both Paul and Cornelius experienced spiritual growth (revival) through entering into **relationship across “cultural boundaries”**
- Acts:11:27-30 - the Antioch Gift... believers were together in the mission; they weren't factioned as we are today; **it wasn't a competition**, it was a super collaboration!

3rd Layer: Priesthood of All Believers

- Acts 1:23-24 - the decision to replace Judas was a **prayerful corporate body process**
- Acts 2 - The gift of tongues... **every member ministry!**
- Acts 9:10-19 - Ananias displays **radical obedience** to be the hand of God to Saul the Christian-killer (“lesser member”)
- Acts 15:6-35 - the Jerusalem council seeks the HS **together** for wisdom
- Acts 15:36-41 - Paul & Barnabas part ways... not letting differences of opinion **hinder the mission!**
- Acts 16:11-40 - a woman, a slave girl and a jailer become witnesses for Christ!

4th Layer: Missional Living

- Acts 2:42;46-47 - They **devoted** themselves to ...sharing their food; enjoying the favor of all people (they were living missional, outwardly, focused about others above themselves!)
- Acts 4:32-37 - the body shared everything as believers had need, and they were generous towards the “worthy poor”
- Acts 6:1-7 - **organized** for practical & spiritual service according to gifts/roles
- Acts 8:1-3 - **persevered** through opposition and don't let it slow the move of the Kingdom
- Acts 8:4-8 - Samaria: **they went, they sent...** they didn't try to draw everyone to Jerusalem or turn everyone into a Jew... valuable modern day food-for-thought for us as SDAs

5th Layer: Reproducible Programming/Methods

- Acts 2:42, 46-47 - **simple daily** methods, they didn't need fancy liturgies to meet Jesus
- Acts 3:1 - They **consistently** practiced **personal** spiritual disciplines in a corporate setting (Peter and John went to pray...)
- Acts 8:26-40; 16:14-15 - Philip and the Ethiopian... Paul and Lydia... **seek out persons of peace**
- Acts 16:13 - Paul by the river - didn't need a traditional Sabbath service to share the gospel
- Acts 7 - Stephen's sermon - he effectively wielded the word of God - we can learn how to **show Jesus from the scriptures**
- Paul throughout Acts - evangelism is often **just sharing** what Jesus has done for us!

The Blueprint Cake Layers: Corporate Spiritual Vitality!

1. Prayer Powerhouse
2. Revival Through Relationship
3. Priesthood of All Believers
4. Missional Living
5. Reproducible Methods



Ingredients: Consecrated Personal Spirituality!

1. Jesus Centered
2. Holy Spirit Driven
3. Faith Fueled

Our blueprint cake isn't even possible without these essential ingredients!



HOW?

Follow the recipe... use the same ingredients...

1st ingredient: Jesus Centered

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- In the same way Jesus was God-centered, we are to be HIM-centered!
 - He prayed for us to have the **same quality** of relationship with the Father that He did (John 17:13)
 - He wants us to have the **same level** of love for the Father that He had! (John 17:26)
 - He is the **way back** to the Father (John 14:6)
 - He is the **image** of the Father (Col 1:15)
- Take a look at the gospels for your baking directions for this ingredient!
 - Spent hours in His Fathers presence and love each day (Mark 1:35)
 - Morning by Morning, He was awakened to **receive** as the learned (“The gospel prophet” - Isaiah 50:4)
 - I and my Father are one (John 10:30)
 - I **only** do what the Father shows me (**what if we could say that?!?**(John 5:19))
 - He is the vine, we are the branches, abide in Him (abiding is a constant verb)

COL 139.1

“From hours spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that He might impart to others. His words were given Him fresh from the heavenly courts, words that He might speak in season to the weary and oppressed.”

2nd Ingredient: Holy Spirit Driven

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- The book of Acts, might be better named Acts of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus promised the gift of HS that would **bring power** to fulfill the mission
- The Spirit's manifestation is like the icing on the cake, but that icing wouldn't even have been possible without the **essential ingredient** of the disciples **submitting to** His control.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place, praying for the outpouring of the HS as Jesus had instructed them (Acts 2:1)

- The believers were actively waiting, praying, putting aside all differences, confessing faults, seeking forgiveness
- They were **literally just getting (self) out of the way** so the Spirit could work!

AW Tozer

“If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.”

3rd ingredient: Faith Fueled!

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Heb 11 & the OT - **Through faith they:**

- Conquered kingdoms
- Administered justice
- Gained what was promised
- Shut the mouths of lions
- Quenched the fury of the flames
- Escaped the edge of the sword
- Had weakness turned to strength.
- And MUCH MUCH more! The Just Shall Live by Faith.

Acts & the NT - **Through faith they:**

- Received the outpouring of the HS
- Three thousand were converted
- Healed the lame and Cast out demons
- Rejoiced in persecution for Jesus sake
- Spread the Gospel to the known world
- Witnessed for Jesus to the death
- Rested in the promise of His power and return (in life & death)

They exercised faith... and that FUELED the work of Holy Spirit on behalf of the Kingdom!

EW 72.2

*“True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing **before it is realized and felt**....We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, **because our faith has hold of it**, and according to the Word it is ours... Here is faith, **naked faith**, to believe that we receive the blessing, even **before we realize it**. ...many suppose theycannot have faith unless they **feel** the power of the Spirit. **Such confound faith with the blessing that comes through faith**. The very time to exercise faith is when we **feel destitute of the Spirit**. When thick clouds of darkness seem to hover over the mind, then is the time to let **living faith pierce the darkness and scatter the clouds.**”*

The Kingdom is Meant to Take Our All...

*“To desire revival...and at the same time to neglect prayer and devotion is to **wish one way** and **walk another**.”*

*Unless praying men have the insight and **faith** to **amend their whole way of life** to conform to the New Testament pattern there can be no true revival.” (AW Tozer)*