

THE BELOVED

A D E V O T I O N A L

THE THREE THOUSAND

marked by acceptance of the Holy Spirit



Acts 2:38-40

Imagine: Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** being marked by the Spirit as one who experiences the Holy Spirit's wind, fire, and language. **After the third reading** note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.

Feel: Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This can include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or any resistance you have.

Think: Why do you think the Spirit highlighted those words to you? Where else in Scripture or your life have those words/themes come up? What message might God be conveying to you? How could you use these words to direct your path?

Be Still: Sit silently for 5 minutes. Just be in God's presence. Focus your attention on the Presence of God that accompanies the words of the Scripture; Presence that is with you and in you. Enjoy the peace, rest in the love, be content with the Holy Spirit.

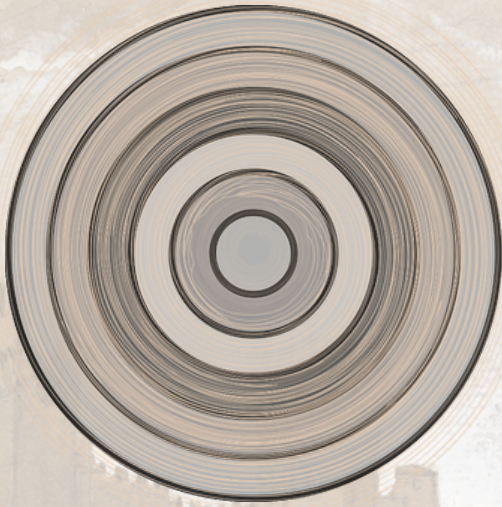
Act: What one action will you take today in response to this word?

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus who were gathered in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit's activity on that day is described in the New Testament book of Acts, chapter 2.

This miraculous event allowed the apostles and other followers of Jesus to speak in languages they had not previously known, and as a result, people from many different nations who were in Jerusalem at the time were able to hear the message of Jesus in their own language. This led to the conversion of three thousand people, and the beginnings of the early Christian church.

Thus, the Holy Spirit's activity on the day of Pentecost empowered the followers of Jesus to spread the message of the gospel to people from all over the world, and to establish the church as a movement that would eventually spread to all corners of the globe.

The three thousand were those who repented, were baptized and were filled with the Holy Spirit.



Christ's Concentric Circles

7. **3000**—marked by an *experience* with the Holy Spirit



THE FIVE HUNDRED

marked by faith in the Resurrection



I Corinthians 15:1-11

Imagine: Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** imagine having Jesus Christ appear to you. **After the third reading** note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.

Feel: Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or any resistance you have.

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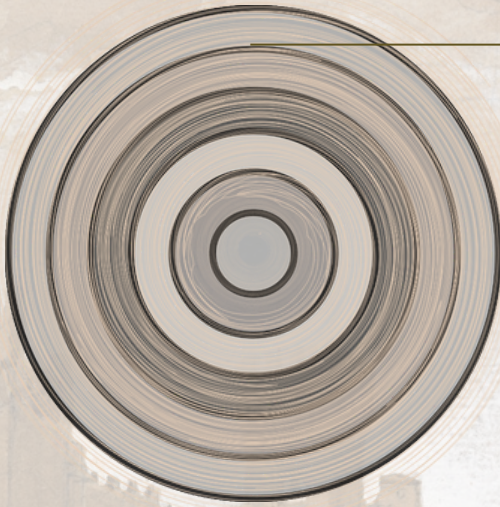
The resurrection of Jesus Christ is of central importance and holds great significance. Here are a few reasons why:

1. Victory over death: The resurrection of Jesus shows that he has power over death and that he has triumphed over it. This gives hope to believers that they too can have eternal life with God after death.
2. Faith in God is vindicated by the Father: The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates how God vindicated his Son's trust in him, and how God trust and faith in God always makes us right before God.
3. Assurance of future resurrection: The resurrection of Jesus gives believers confidence in their own future resurrection. They believe that just as Jesus was raised from the dead, they too will be raised to eternal life with him.

Overall, the resurrection of Jesus is seen as the cornerstone of Christian faith and belief, and it has profound implications for the lives of believers both now and in the future.

3,000 (Acts 2)

500 (1 Cor 15)



Christ's Concentric Circles

7. **3000**—marked by an *experience* with the Holy Spirit

6. **500**—marked by a *faith encounter* with the Resurrected Jesus.



THE ONE HUNDRED & TWENTY

marked by devotion to prayer



Acts 1:12-15

Imagine: Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** imagine being in the Upper Room. **After the third reading** note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.

Feel: Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or resistance you have.

Think: Why do you think the Spirit highlighted those words to you? Where else in Scripture or your life have those words/themes come up? What message might God be conveying to you? How could you use these words to direct your path?

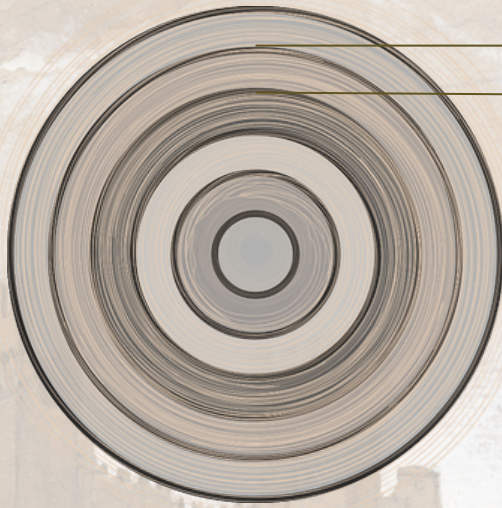
Be Still: Sit silently for 5 minutes. Just be in God's presence. Focus your attention on the Presence of God that accompanies the words of the Scripture; Presence that is with you and in you. Enjoy the peace, rest in the love, be content with the Holy Spirit.

Act: What one action will you take today in response to this word?

The Upper Room is where Jesus and his disciples had their Last Supper before Jesus' crucifixion, and it is also the location where, according to the Bible, the Holy Spirit descended on the 120 disciples on the day of Pentecost. Here are a few reasons why they are significant:

1. They were witnesses to Jesus' teachings and miracles: The one hundred and twenty disciples had all been followers of Jesus during his earthly ministry. They had witnessed his teachings, miracles, and resurrection, and were therefore his witnesses.
2. They were obedient to Jesus' command: Jesus had instructed his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit, which would empower them to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. The one hundred and twenty disciples were what obediently remained of the 500,
3. They formed the foundation of the early church: The one hundred and twenty disciples were the first to receive the Holy Spirit and to begin proclaiming the gospel message.

In summary, the significance of the one hundred and twenty disciples who prayed in the Upper Room was that they were witnesses to Jesus' teachings and miracles, obedient to his command, and formed the foundation of the early Christian church.



3,000 (Acts 2)

500 (1 Cor 15)

120 (Acts 2)

Christ's Concentric Circles

7. **3000**—marked by an *experience* with the Holy Spirit
6. **500**—marked by a *faith in* the Resurrected Jesus.
5. **120**—marked by a *devotion to* prayer in the Spirit.



THE SEVENTY-TWO

marked by Kingdom Work



Luke 10:1-12

Imagine: Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** imagine being in the seventy-two. **After the third reading** note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.

Feel: Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or any resistance you have.

Think: Why do you think the Spirit highlighted those words to you? Where else in Scripture or your life have those words/themes come up? What message might God be conveying to you? How could you use these words to direct your path?

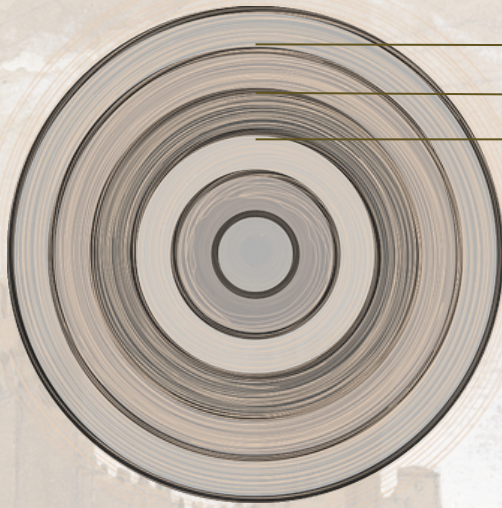
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Act: What one action will you take today in response to this word?

Jesus sent out seventy-two of his disciples on a mission to go ahead of him to the towns and villages he planned to visit. The sending out of the seventy-two is significant for a few reasons:

1. Seventy-two was symbolic of the Table of Nations in Genesis. This means Jesus was authorizing a ministry to the nations and the seventy two were part of that expansion of the Gospel to the world.
2. They are fully authorized and empowered to do Kingdom work-- power to heal the sick and cast out demons.
3. The importance of teamwork: The sending out of the seventy-two also demonstrated the importance of working together in mission and ministry. The disciples were sent out in pairs, which meant they could support and encourage each other, and the presence of two witnesses was necessary to establish the truth of any message.

Overall, the sending out of the seventy-two was a significant event in the life of Jesus and his disciples. It demonstrated Jesus' authority, the urgency of his mission, the importance of teamwork, and the universality of the gospel message.



3,000 (Acts 2)

500 (1 Cor 15)

120 (Acts 2)

72 (Luke 10)

Christ's Concentric Circles

7. **3000**—marked by an *experience* with the Holy Spirit
6. **500**—marked by *faith in* the Resurrected Jesus.
5. **120**—marked by a *devotion to* prayer in the Spirit.
4. **72**—marked by *going on* kingdom work.



THE TWELVE

marked by a 3 year apprenticeship



Mark 3:13-19

Imagine: Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** imagine being one of the Twelve. **After the third reading** note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.

Feel: Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or any resistance you have.

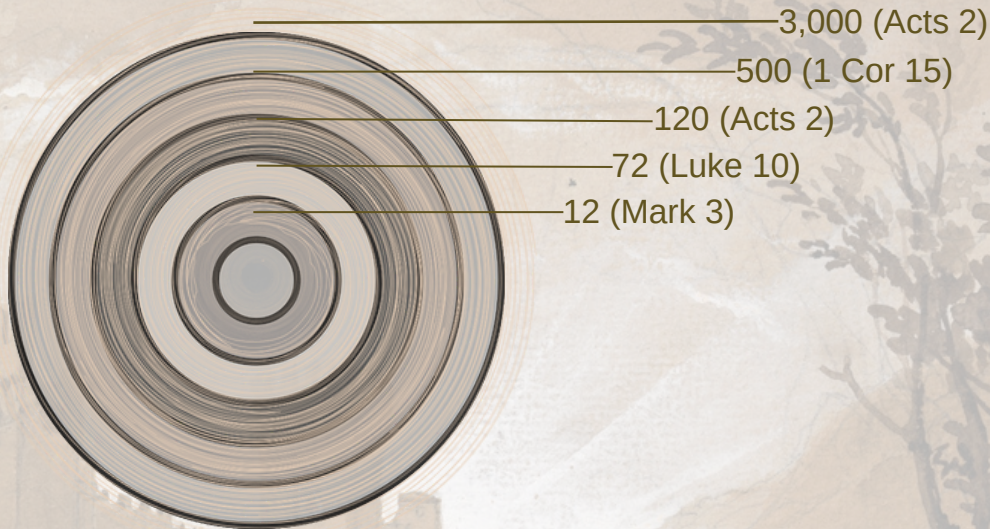
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Act: What one action will you take today in response to this word?

The Twelve refers to the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus to be his closest followers and to continue his mission after his death and resurrection. The significance of the Twelve is multi-faceted and includes the following:

1. They were chosen by Jesus: many are called but few are chosen. Jesus gave the call to many but few chose to forsake their occupations and follow his ministry path.
2. They were committed to a full apprenticeship of becoming "fishers of men."
3. They were with Jesus more than any other. Prayer, ministry, travel were part of a constant witness wherein they were exposed to his words, works, and ways.
4. They formed the foundation of the Christian church: After Jesus' death and resurrection, the Twelve became the leaders of the early Christian church. They were instrumental in spreading the gospel message and establishing Christian communities throughout the world.



Christ's Concentric Circles

- 7. 3000**—marked by an *experience* with the Holy Spirit
- 6. 500**—marked by *faith in* the Resurrected Jesus.
- 5. 120**—marked by a *devotion to* prayer in the Spirit.
- 4. 72**—marked by *going on* kingdom work.
- 3. 12**—marked by *following* for three years and life-long kingdom ambassadorship to the world.



THE THREE

marked by elite commitment



Mark 5:35-43; 9:2-10; 14:32-42

Imagine: Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** imagine yourself as Mary in this scene. **After the third reading** note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.

Feel: Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or any resistance you have.

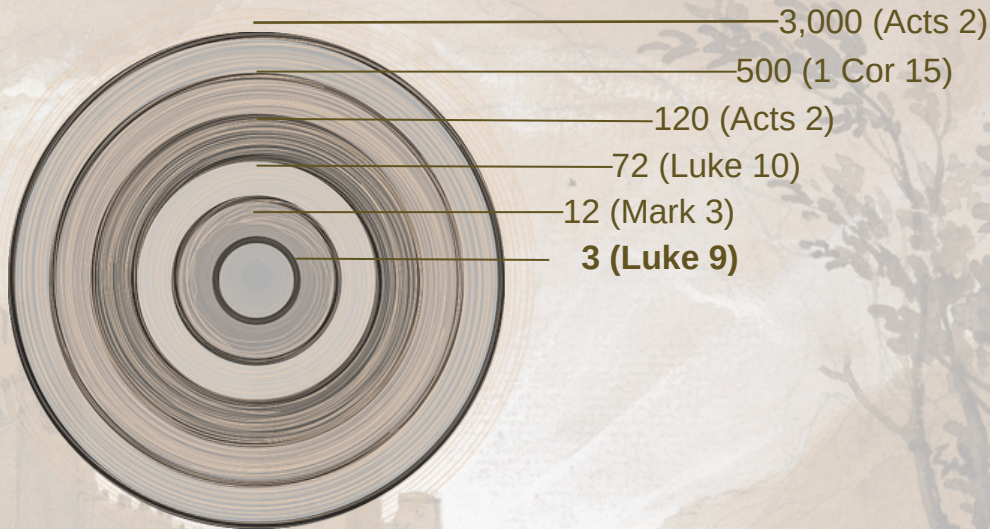
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Act: What one action will you take today in response to this word?

Jesus had an inner circle of three disciples: Peter, James, and John. These three were present at three significant events in Jesus' life: raising Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration and Gethsemane.

1. They have an elite faith, which is why they are included in the healing of Jairus' daughter, an elite insight into Jesus' identity (Transfiguration) and an elite prayer life (Gethsemane).
2. They go a little bit further than the rest of the disciples.
3. Represented different types of disciples: The inner circle of three disciples represented different types of discipleship. Peter was impulsive and passionate, James was a leader in the early church, and John was known for his deep love and devotion to Jesus.
4. Training for leadership: By being part of this select group, they were able to receive extra training and preparation for their future roles as leaders in the church.
5. Examples of loyalty: Peter, James, and John were examples of loyalty to Jesus, even in difficult circumstances. Peter famously tried to defend Jesus with sword, James and John tried to call fire down from heaven on those who rejected Jesus. James was the first apostle to be martyred for his faith.



Christ's Concentric Circles

7. **3000**—marked by an *experience* with the Holy Spirit
6. **500**—marked by *faith in* the Resurrected Jesus.
5. **120**—marked by a *devotion to* prayer in the Spirit.
4. **72**—marked by *going on* kingdom work.
3. **12**—marked by *following* for 3 years.
2. **3**—marked by *elite commitment--further in ministry, insight, and spiritual fervor*

