

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Acts"
Book-44

Key Passage: Acts 1:8

The Title "The Book Of Acts" was at one time called **"The Acts of the Holy Spirit"** or **"The Acts of the Apostles."**

The Author is Luke, the beloved physician, the companion of the apostle Paul. Luke is believed to be a gentile which makes him the only gentile author of the NT. Paul gives a list of Jews, and Luke is not on that list. **(Col. 4:11)**

The Gospel of Luke and Acts were written by the same person and written to the same person, Theophilus. Luke was a doctor **(Col. 4:14)** who joined Paul's team at Troas **(Acts 16:8-10; note the change from "they" to "we")**. Luke, being a Gentile, wrote The Gospel of Luke - to the Greeks. The theme is "Jesus the perfect man."

Ancient tradition almost unanimously ascribed Luke as the author. (170 AD) Fragment stated early church fathers ascribed the book of Acts to Luke. **Luke 1:1-4**

The account continues **Acts 1:1**

The Gospel of Luke tells of Christ's ministry on earth in a physical body, while Acts tells of His ministry from heaven through His spiritual body, the church.

When Written: 60-62 A.D. About 30 years after the facts. It covers a generation, about 40 years. (38 Years)

Where it was Written: At Rome during Paul's first imprisonment. If written later, why didn't Luke write about the fall of Rome or Paul's death?

Purpose: The Birth and The Expansion of the Church in the World. Acts is the historical link between the Gospels and the Epistles. (Can you imagine going from the Gospel of John to Romans without Acts?)

Theme: "Acts of the Holy Spirit"

Key Words: God 212 times, Holy Spirit 83 times, Jesus Christ 28 times, Word of God 25 times.

There are **15 sermons** or great addresses recorded in the book of Acts, and there are **21 instances of prayer**.

Key Chapter: Acts 2 The transformation of the weak cowering disciples is all attributed to the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. This transformed their lives and empowered them to fulfill God's great commission.

Key Passage: Acts 1:8

Outline: Acts 1:8

Acts 1-7 Witness In Jerusalem: you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,

Acts 8-12 Witness In Judea and Samaria: in all Judea and Samaria,

Acts 13-28 Witness In the ends of the earth: remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1-12 Ministry of Peter:

Acts 13-28 Ministry of Paul:

Acts 1 Jesus Christ Is Alive: The believer lives because Jesus lives.

Acts 2: The Believers In The Church Need His Power: They are no match for the job ahead and the tasks before them, and they need the direction and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Church Is Born: Acts 2:1-4 (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Acts 2:42

- 1. What makes a church – teaching of the apostles: Doctrine teaching.**
- 2. What makes a church – Fellowship:** Believers had Jesus in common.
- 3. What makes a church – Breaking bread: Lords Supper.**
- 4. What makes a church – Prayers: Communing with God.**

Acts 3 Believers should always be open and ready to serve the Lord. Expect the Unexpected.

The healing of the lame man at the temple. This miracle was chosen because it was public and because it was used by God to further the gospel. Leads to persecution.

Acts 2, we saw the **Gospel in power,** now in **Acts 3,** we see the **Gospel in life.** The Gospel is a message to live out!

We need to be ready and open as to how the Holy Spirit can use us.

Acts 4 Adversity, trials, and persecutions are all tools by which God purifies, strengthens, and produces growth in the Church.

Five times in 11 years, hands were laid on them in an attempt to destroy the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 4:1-3

Acts 5: Be On The Lookout. The enemy is always looking for a foothold Through Persecution Or a Lack Of Personal Or Corporate Purity.

Acts 5:1-2 "If You Can't Beat Them Join Them!" Deception

Acts 6 If there is no pain, there is no gain, Or along with growth comes problems!

Acts 6:1

We need to note that the Devil has tried various weapons out of his arsenal:

1. Blatant frontal attack of persecution –
2. He tried to destroy from within. Corruption lack of purity. **Acts 5 (Num. 25)**
3. He now uses preoccupation of the apostles.

Acts 7 Don't Substitute Jesus For Religion: This chapter records the longest single speech in the Book of Acts, as well as the turning point in Israel's spiritual history.

Stephen - "*Victor's crown*" Rightfully so, he became the first martyr of the church.

Stephen was the crucial link between Peter and Paul.

He was one of the "**Magnificent Seven**" - the first deacons or servants of the church.

Acts 8 God wants to use each believer. He often forces us out so His Spirit can come through!

Keep in mind the key verse in the book of Acts, which is **Acts 1:8**

Acts 1-7 have described the “**Period of Testing,**” during which the kingdom was offered to Israel for the third time. **Acts 8-12** describe the “**Period of Transition**” during which the following changes take place:

- (1) The center of activity moves from Jerusalem to Antioch.
- (2) The message goes from the Jews to the Samaritans and then to the Gentiles.
- (3) Peter’s activities assume less importance as Paul becomes leader.
- (4) The Gospel of the kingdom is replaced by the Gospel of the grace of God.

Individuals had suffered up to this point, but this is the first organized and widespread persecution of the church. Acts 8:1

Acts 9 God can do that which is humanly impossible; He can change the heart of stone into a heart of flesh!

Paul went from persecutor to preacher.

There are three passages that tell of Paul’s conversion:
(Acts 9; 22:1-16; 26:9-18)

The Church Rests On Two Pillars: The Resurrection of Jesus, and The Conversion of Saul.

He would not only become the apostle to the Gentiles but would write over 13 books of the New Testament.

Acts 10 “There is always an open door for the open heart.”

Acts 10-11 The gospel was in the Jewish community, but it was a matter of time until it reached the Gentile population.

It was ten years ago that Jesus had said these words: **Matthew 28:19-20**

Acts 11 “We must be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, remembering that truth comes before tradition.”

We have Peter repeating the account of **Acts 10** almost verbatim. **Acts 11:9**

Acts 11:1-2

those who were circumcised took issue with him, - oppose; contend, they came as a judge to get in his face.

Acts 12 “His Power is available and sufficient to meet our every need”

Now we see the **5th persecution** of the church now in **Acts 12**.

Acts 12:1-2 This is James, the son of Zebedee, the older brother of John. He was part of the inner circle, Peter James, and John.

James the brother of John put to death with a sword. They either decapitated or cut him in half lengthwise. **Mark 10:39**

Acts 1:8 you shall be my witnesses (*You shall be martyrs*)

Acts 13: "God not only looks for ability but availability." A man's gift will make room for him.

Acts 1:8 the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1-12 Trace the gospel in progress from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Acts 13-28 The westward advance, Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome, records the movement from Antioch to Rome.

Acts 13-14 records **Paul's first missionary Journey.** He would go on three tours, culminating in one last journey to Rome.

Acts 13:2, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work.

Acts 14 "That in presenting the gospel we should expect both acceptance and opposition to the message."

We will see the pattern of **going to convert**, then **returning to confirm.**

Acts 14:1-2

Acts 15 "In life, differences abound, The challenge is what we do with our differences, and what our distinctions do to us."

What would eventually happen is that the Gentiles would outnumber the Jews, and Jews would become the minority. This is a problem that would have to be dealt with. **Galatians 2:1-10 complementary passage.**

Apostles Counsel in Jerusalem: Was Christianity to be a Christianized Judaism?

Acts 16 "Man's disappointments are often God's appointments." "Another closed door signals another open door" We must seek His will for our lives!

We come now to the **second missionary journey** of Paul. And how we can make plans, but the providence of God overrules all that we do. Here Paul is called to Europe to preach the good news. **Acts 16:9-10**

Acts 17 "Keep single-minded in ministry, Keep your message simple, point to the cross so others can find Jesus."

Acts 17:11 noble-minded "*generous-minded*" These were people that were thinkers. Their character was free from prejudice, impartial.

for they received the word with great eagerness, these are the type of folks that every teacher wants to teach. They were hungry for the Word.
examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so. They daily were looking into the Word to determine what the scriptures really taught.

Acts 17:12 Therefore many of them believed,

Acts 18 "Discipleship involves, contending for the faith, and building up in the Christian Faith."

Acts 18:2 Aquila (Husband) Aquila - "*an eagle*"

Priscilla (Wife) - *Priscilla* - "*ancient*"
Acts 18:3

Acts 19 "His Word is all powerful, It can correct, convert, convict, and cleanse of all corruption."

The date is 53 AD Paul is on his **third missionary journey**. This period is the period of the Gentiles **Acts 13-28**.

In the city of Ephesus was the center of the occult and magic, and the worship to the goddess Artemis (Diana)

- 1. The Word to bring correction** – on those that have gone the wrong way.
- 2. The Word can bring conversion** – The dead can come to life.
- 3. The Word to bring conviction** – The Word is powerful to show us the error.
- 4. The Word can clear out corruption** – It can purify.

Acts 20 "One of the greatest abilities in the kingdom of God is availability. We minister by Serving, teaching, testifying, and commending our labors to the Lord."

Paul calls the leaders of Ephesus to come to him at the island of **Miletus**. There he will give a farewell address to these men. Jesus gave the upper room discourse (**John 13-17**).

Acts 21 "Living Faith is a living, Sacrifice to God."

Paul goes to Jerusalem, and there, what the Holy Spirit has been saying comes to pass, Paul is arrested. **Acts 21:13**

Acts 22 In God's plan, a closed door marks a new opportunity.

"There is the challenge of closed doors!" Paul now makes his defense before the Jews on the steps of the temple. This is a difficult time to speak.

Acts 22:1

Acts 23 "The safest place in the world is being in the will of God. We will discover God's will by daily obedience to the written Word."

Where is the safest place to be? We cannot find safety outside of Jesus Christ. It will never be found on this earth.

Acts 22 Paul's Defense before the crowds: Acts 23 Defense before the Sanhedrin: Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Acts 24 "Delayed Justice is not the denial of justice." God's time justice will be served. Judgment is a fact of life; we need to live in the light of that day.

Acts 24:27 But after two years had passed, **this** is a quick **phrase**, but two years.

Acts 25 "The heart of the Christian message is a resurrected Lord." Jesus Christ is not dead but alive.

Acts 25 Defense before Fetus (New governor)

Acts 25:19 about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive.

Acts 26 "Relationship with Jesus brings about a renewing of the mind." The World looks at those who follow Jesus as out of their minds, but God sees them as in a right state of mind. **Acts 26:24**

Acts 27 "The way we enlist a crisis tells a lot about one's faith. It indicates whether faith is vital reliance on God."

We see a transformation that takes place on this ship. Paul, the prisoner, eventually takes charge and becomes the captain.

We are not guaranteed an easy road to heaven, just a safe arrival.

Acts 28 "We are mandated to preach the gospel, to reach all people using the forms of each culture, but the gospel is always the same, the message is preached from The Scriptures."

Acts 28:23 and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, - To convince content, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

from both the Law of Moses Notice that Paul believed that Moses was the author of the five books of the OT.

Application:

- 1.** The Bible Contains Both "Descriptive" And "Prescriptive" Scripture. The Book Of "Acts" Is A Historical Narrative. Acts Is Not An Epistle (Doctrine, Correction). Acts Is A Narrative That Does Contain Doctrine.
- 2.** Vance Havner said, "We will move this world not by criticism of it, nor conformity to it – but by combustion within it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God."
- 3.** "The Mission Of The Church Is Missions And The Mission Of Missions Is The Church."
- 4.** William Bradford, "Those Who Believe In The Holy Scriptures Are Bound To Observe Its Teachings. Those Who Do Not Are To Be Bound By Its Consequences."