

## ACTS: THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

**A. Author:** Luke

**B. Background:** After the resurrection, Jesus appeared with final instructions for His disciples to spread the gospel. He told them to wait until they received the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). Acts is "Part 2" in a two-volume set about Jesus and the early church.

**C. Theme:** The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus' followers to take the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome (from where it began to the most prominent city of the day).

**D. Outline:**

**1. The Promise & the Ascension (1:1-26)**

- a. The Promise of the Holy Spirit (1:4-8)
- b. The Ascension of Jesus (1:9-14)
- c. The Successor to Judas (1:15-26)

**2. The Coming of the Holy Spirit (2:1-47)**

- a. Signs of the Spirit (2:1-4)
- b. Preaching of the 120 (2:5-13)
- c. Preaching of Peter (2:14-41)
- d. A Focused Church (2:42-47)

**3. Jerusalem (3:1-5:42)**

- a. Peter Heals a Lame Beggar (3:1-26)
- b. Peter and John Arrested, but the Church Grows (4:1-37)
- c. Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11)
- d. Arrested again & Gamaliel's Advice (5:12-42)

**4. Judea & Samaria (6:1-9:43)**

- a. The First Deacons (6:1-7)
- b. The Martyrdom of Stephen (6:8-8:3)
- c. The Preaching of Philip (8:4-40)
- d. Saul's Conversion (9:1-31)

**5. The End of the Earth (10:1-21:16)**

- a. Peter's Witness to the Gentiles (10:1-11:18)
- b. Antioch's Witness to the Gentiles (11:19-30)
- c. Herod's Pride and Fall (12:1-25)
- d. The First Missionary Journey (13:1-14:28)
  - The Calling of the First Missionaries (13:2-3)
  - Cyprus (13:4-12)
  - Antioch in Pisidia (13:13-52)
  - Iconium (14:1-7)
  - Lystra & Return to Antioch (14:8-28)

e. The Jerusalem Council (15:1-29)

f. The Division of Paul and Barnabas (15:30-41)

g. The Second Missionary Journey (16:1-18:22)

- Return to Asia Minor (16:1-5)
- The Macedonian Call (16:6-10)
- Philippi (16:11-40)
- Thessalonica (17:1-9)
- Berea (17:10-15)
- Athens (17:16-34)
- Corinth (18:1-17)
- Return to Antioch (18:18-22)

h. The Third Missionary Journey (18:23-21:16)

- Return to Asia Minor (18:23)
- Ephesus (19:1-41)
- Return to Greece (20:1-6)
- Return to Asia Minor (20:7-38)
- Paul's Island Tour (21:1-16)

i. Paul's Journey to Jerusalem (21:17-26:32)

- Arrested in the Temple (21:26-40)
- Appealed with his citizenship (22:22-29)
- Plot to Kill Paul (23:11-22)
- Trials before Felix and Agrippa (24-25)
- Paul appeals to Czesar (25:12)

j. Paul's Journey to Rome (27:1-28:31)

- Shipwrecked on Malta (27:1-28:10)
- House Arrest in Rome (28:11-31)

**E. Real Life Lessons from John**

1. The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness for Christ.
2. Our witness must be simultaneous in our Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria, and the End of the Earth.
3. Pastors devote themselves to the Word and Prayer; deacons devote themselves to serving the church.
4. Some people receive a special call to be lifelong missionaries, but all of us are called to be witnesses.
5. Even our negative events in life can further the gospel.