

THE BOOK OF ACTS — A BIBLICAL DOCUMENTARY

The Spirit's Story — From Jerusalem to the Ends of the Earth

In the aftermath of the resurrection, the followers of Jesus are not building a new religion—they are witnessing a **living King**. What begins as a small, praying group in Jerusalem becomes a global movement that no prison, persecution, or politics can stop.

This is the Book of Acts: the true story of how Jesus continued His work—through the **Holy Spirit**—using ordinary people with extraordinary power.

Who Wrote the Book of Acts?

Acts was written by Luke, the same author of the Gospel of Luke.

How we know:

- Acts opens by referencing a “former account” addressed to **Theophilus**—which matches Luke’s Gospel (Luke 1:1–4; Acts 1:1–2).
- The writing style and vocabulary strongly align with Luke.
- Acts contains “**we passages**” (like Acts 16:10–17; 20:5–15; 27:1–28:16), showing the author traveled with Paul at times—consistent with Luke as a companion in Paul’s ministry.

What Luke was: a careful historian and investigator, writing an orderly account so believers could have confidence in what happened.

What Is the Main Theme of Acts?

The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to be witnesses of Jesus Christ—spreading the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

One verse functions like the documentary's "mission statement":

Acts 1:8 (NKJV):

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts is not mainly the "Acts of the Apostles."

It's the **continuing acts of Jesus** through the **Holy Spirit** working through His people.

How Acts Unfolds

"The Promise of Power" (Acts 1–2)

Scene: The disciples gather, waiting—obedient, praying, united. Jesus ascends, but He does not abandon them. He promises power.

Pentecost arrives.

Wind. Fire. Languages. Boldness.

Peter—once afraid—now preaches Christ openly, and thousands believe.

Key message: The Church is born, not by human organization, but by **Holy Spirit power**.

"The Fire Spreads in Jerusalem" (Acts 3–7)

Scene: A lame man is healed. Crowds gather. Leaders threaten. But the believers pray—not for safety, but for **boldness**.

Miracles confirm the message. The Word grows.

Then Stephen stands—faithful and fearless—and becomes the first martyr.

Key message: The gospel advances through both **miracles and suffering**.

“From Persecution to Expansion” (Acts 8–12)

Scene: Persecution scatters believers—yet the scattering becomes the strategy.

Philip preaches in Samaria. An Ethiopian official believes.

Saul the persecutor meets Jesus—and becomes Paul the preacher.

Peter is sent to Cornelius: a turning point.

The message is for Jews and Gentiles—**one Savior for all peoples**.

Key message: God is not building a small, local club—He’s forming a global family.

“The Gospel Goes Global” (Acts 13–21)

Scene: Antioch becomes a missions hub.

Paul and his companions travel city to city: synagogues, marketplaces, homes, jails.

Churches are planted. Leaders are trained. Opposition rises.

A major question shakes the growing movement:

“Do Gentile believers have to become Jewish to be saved?”

The Jerusalem Council confirms the truth:

Salvation is by **grace through faith**, not by works.

Key message: The gospel is not chained to culture—it’s anchored to Christ.

“Unchained Witness” (Acts 22–28)

Scene: Paul is arrested, tried, beaten, and shipped to Rome.

Storms rage. A ship breaks. Yet Paul stands steady—because God’s mission stands steady.

Acts ends without a neat conclusion, because the story is still going:

The gospel reaches Rome—one of the world’s greatest centers of power.

Key message: God's Word cannot be stopped. The witness continues.

The Big Ideas Acts Teaches Us

- **Jesus is alive** and still building His Church.
- **The Holy Spirit empowers** believers for bold witness and holy living.
- **Prayer fuels power.**
- **Persecution doesn't pause God's plan—it often accelerates it.**
- **The gospel is for everyone**—every nation, background, and story.
- **God uses ordinary people** who are willing, surrendered, and Spirit-led.

Acts is not only history—it's a call.

The same Spirit who filled the early believers still fills believers today. The same gospel that reached Jerusalem, Samaria, and Rome is still reaching families, towns, and nations—through willing hearts.

In Closing

And so the Book of Acts ends—not with a period, but with a doorway.

Paul is in Rome, the gospel is being preached “with all confidence,” and the Church is still growing. No final curtain call. No neat wrap-up. Because Acts was never meant to feel finished... it was meant to **ignite** something in us.

What began in an upper room became a world-shaking movement.

Ordinary people—praying people—became bold people. The Holy Spirit took hearts that were once afraid and turned them into living witnesses of Jesus Christ, Amen!

Acts remind us that the gospel does not advance because the world is friendly. It advances because **God is faithful.**

It spreads through cities and storms, through prisons and pressure,

through hardships and hallelujahs—because Jesus is alive and His Word cannot be chained.

So the question isn't just, "What did they do?"

The question is, **"What will we do?"**

Will we pray like them?

Will we believe like them?

Will we go like them?

Will we witness like them?

Will we trust the Holy Spirit to empower us—right where we are?

Because the same Spirit who moved in Acts is still moving today.

And the same Jesus who sent them is still sending us.

The story continues... through Spirit-filled believers who dare to say, "Here I am, Lord—use me."

Notes:

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