

ACTS 1.

I. 1-3: Introduction.

Acts is a second volume of Luke's record, a first century medical doctor, whose testimony is based on both research and travel alongside Paul through his missionary journeys. Addressed particularly to Theophilus, "lover of God" probably a high ranking Roman official being briefed about the Christian movement [and all who love God].

This Book links the end of the Gospels and the speedy spread of Christianity through His Apostles by the power of the Holy Spirit (with only a few parchments of the Old Testament and declarations about who Jesus was). This is the Book that we all should be familiar with because it is our history & heritage, without it we can't appreciate/understand the rest of the New Testament. This is also an incomplete Book b'c God is still working through His Spirit through each one of us today.

His resurrection and life with many infallible/undeniable/reliable proofs was displayed during forty days after his resurrection; appearing to Mary Magdalene, the Roman soldiers, the disciples who had gone fishing, the disciples on their way to Emmaus, the disciples who were in a room without Thomas, with Thomas and many others...

1 Corinthians 15:5-6 – He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, after that He was seen He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep, After that He was seen by James and by all the apostles.

II. 4-8: Instruction To Wait And The Promise Of The Holy Spirit.

Just as John baptized (immersed) people in water so these disciples would be "immersed" in the Holy Spirit to be Jesus' witnesses.

John 16:7 - It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

A witness is someone who has evidence/proof of knowledge or experience about a particular matter before others; telling others about the crucified and resurrected Jesus.

1 John 1:1-3: ...we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

This whole Book is about men and women being witnesses of Jesus Christ.

A good witness isn't like a salesman, emphasis is on a person rather than a product. A good witness is like a signpost. It doesn't matter whether it is old, young, pretty, ugly; it has to point the right direction and be able to be understood. We are witnesses to Christ, we point to him. John White, The Fight.

They thought Jesus would oust the Romans and establish His earthly Kingdom after resurrection, so that they would become His co-governors. However, Jesus offers them spiritual power to cover Jerusalem where Jesus was executed; Judea where His ministry was rejected; Samaria which was regarded as a wasteland of impure half-breeds; and to the uttermost parts of the earth, the Gentiles who were seen as nothing.

If you're not a witness, you're a suspect; people will just suspect you're His follower.

III. 9-11: The Ascension And The Promise Of His Return.

As He slowly disappeared into the sky, surrounded by a cloud, they continued to gaze upward probably in expectation of His reappearance of Christ when they heard voices telling them of a later return in the same way.

Acts 7:55 - But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God...

IV. 12-14: United in Waiting And In Prayer.

The eleven disciples (minus Judas) are present; along with Mary, the mother of Jesus, the brothers of Jesus (such as James and Jude), the women who followed Jesus, and others, adding up to about 120 (Acts 1:15).

***Psalm 27:14** - Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

They continued in prayer and supplication.

***1 Thessalonians 5:17** - pray without ceasing...*

V. 15-26: Matthias Is Appointed To Replace Judas.

In the Gospels the Son Of God offered His life, in Acts, He offered His Power. In the Gospels we see the original seeds of Christianity. In Acts we see the continual growth of the church. In the Gospels Christ is crucified and risen, in Acts He is ascended and exalted.