

ACTS

THE SPREADING FLAME



The book of Acts is the second part of Luke's two-volume work (originally Luke-Acts) in which the Scripture highlights all Jesus continued to do and teach after his ascension. Here we find the historical birth of the Holy Spirit empowered church and enduring teaching about the acting of God in history through his Spirit in his people.

What does Acts mean for us in 2024? First, this is our spiritual family. Second, this is the story into which we have been plunged, just a little farther down the stream of history. Third, we inherit the same mission as outlined in the book of Acts. Finally, this is the same God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who is active in our lives and world today. Here we learn of him and are invited to walk faithfully as we practically learn of his Lordship and are filled with his Spirit.

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Holy Community

April 14, 2024 | Acts 2:42-47 | Pastor Roger Williams

Jesus builds his church through normal pathways of grace.

Acts 2

⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴²And they kept on devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

Devotion to God's chosen pathways

⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Leading to open-handed generosity

⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Culminating in joyful expansion

“Grace is opposed to earning, not to effort.”

-Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*

2 Corinthians 8 ⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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