

KEY THEME

Jesus offers
salvation to
everyone.

Acts

KEY VERSE

⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

⁸ 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 1:8 —

The book of Acts in two acts

THE MINISTRY OF PETER (Chapters 1-12)

- Peter and the Jews, Acts 1—7
- Peter and the Samaritans, Acts 8
- The conversion of Paul, Acts 9
- Peter and the Gentiles, Acts 10—11
- Peter’s arrest and deliverance, Acts 12

THE MINISTRY OF PAUL (Chapter 13-28)

- Paul’s first missionary journey, Acts 13—14
- The Council of Jerusalem, Acts 15
- Paul’s second missionary journey, 16:1—18:22
- Paul’s third missionary journey, 18:23—21:25
- Paul’s arrest and trial in Caesarea, 21:26—26:31
- Paul’s voyage to Rome, Acts 27-28

The ministries of Peter and Paul



Relationship of the acts of Peter and Paul

Acts 1-12

Centre in Jerusalem
 Peter, chief figure
 Out to Samaria
 Word rejected by
 Jews in the homeland
 Peter imprisoned
 Judgement on Herod

Acts of
 Peter

Acts of
 Paul

Centre in Antioch
 Paul, chief figure
 Out to Rome
 Word rejected by
 diaspora Jews
 Paul imprisoned
 Judgement on Jews

Acts 13-28

Seven Progress Reports

1. ~~"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).~~
2. "So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly" (Acts 6:7).
3. "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria...was strengthened; and [it was] encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord" (Acts 9:31).
4. "But the Word of God continued to increase and spread" (Acts 12:24).
5. "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (Acts 16:5).
6. "In this way the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power" (Acts 19:20).
7. "Paul...welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:30-31).

Theology underpinning Acts

1. Key subjects in Acts include **God**, **Jesus**, and **Holy Spirit**.
2. Salvation is available to **everyone** (Jews and Gentiles).
3. Jews (OT) and Followers of Jesus' Way (NT) have **separate identities and futures**, but are both included in God's Plan.
4. The **ekklesia** (aka, mystical church) is the **Body of Believers**.
5. **Revelations** regarding the "mystical church" of Christ:
 - a. Jesus Christ created the church. He is its **origin**.
 - b. The church is one with Jesus Christ. He is its **nature**.
 - c. The function of the church is to be the **instrument** of Jesus:
 - To impart **life** where there is **death**
 - To manifest **light** where there is **darkness**
 - To produce **love** where there is **apathy, bitterness** and **hatred**.

6. **Enemies/antagonists** of the *ekklesia*:
 - a. **Prejudice** (prejudging, no confidence, playing “church”).
 - b. **Personal agendas** (desire for other than God’s will).
 - c. **Pride** (lack of obedience to the Holy Spirit).
7. **Lessons** for the corporate *ekklesia* (Body of Christ):
 - a. The church's **passion** must be the glory of God.
 - b. The church's **governing principle** must be loyalty to Christ.
 - c. The church's **power** must be the Holy Spirit.
8. **Challenges for Believers** arising from the book of Acts:
 - a. What is your **motivation**? Why be a Follower?
 - b. What is your **method**? How does one follow Jesus?
 - c. What is your **emphasis**? Why do you follow Him?

9. **Baptism with the Spirit**:
 - a. of Jesus began **Jesus’ earthly ministry** (Luke 3:21-22).
 - b. of disciples began **Jesus’ heavenly ministry** (Acts 2:1-4).
10. **Speaking with tongues** (unlearned languages), **healings**, etc:
 - a. Charismatics see sign gifts as primarily edification.
 - b. Non-charismatics see sign gifts authenticating revelation.

In Acts, the focus is on speaking in unlearned languages

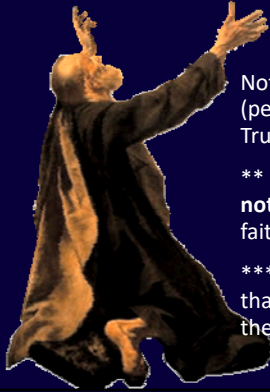
Acts	Speakers	Audience	Conversion	Purpose
2:1-4	Jewish believers	Unsaved Jews and Christians	Sometime afterwards	To validate (for Jews) God's working as Joel prophesied
10:44-47	Gentile believers	Jewish believers who doubted God's plan	Immediately afterwards	To validate (for Jews) God's working among Gentiles
19:1-7	Believers	Confirmation to Jews of Paul's message	Immediately afterwards	To validate (for Jews) Paul's gospel message

And Peter said to them,

REPENT, and be BAPTIZED

every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38



Note: *Turning from sinful practices (personal reform) is *works*, **not** *faith*. True faith brings real repentance.

** If Baptism is required, it is *works*, **not** *faith*. Over 100 NT verses make faith in Christ the only condition.

*** The NT Apostles took for granted that one who trusted in Christ would then submit to water baptism.

REPENT

1. Change of
mind & heart

(fm. back to Jesus to face to Jesus)

2. Change of
conduct*

BAPTISE

• Spirit baptism
(God's prerogative)

• Water baptism
Requirement** OR
Expression of faith



SAINT PETER

The Acts of Peter

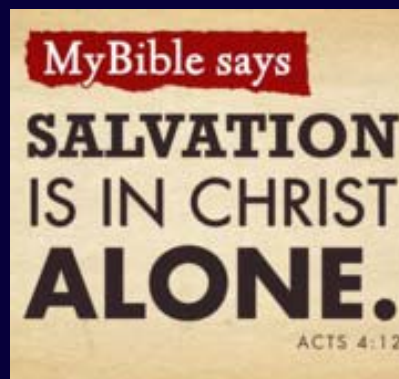
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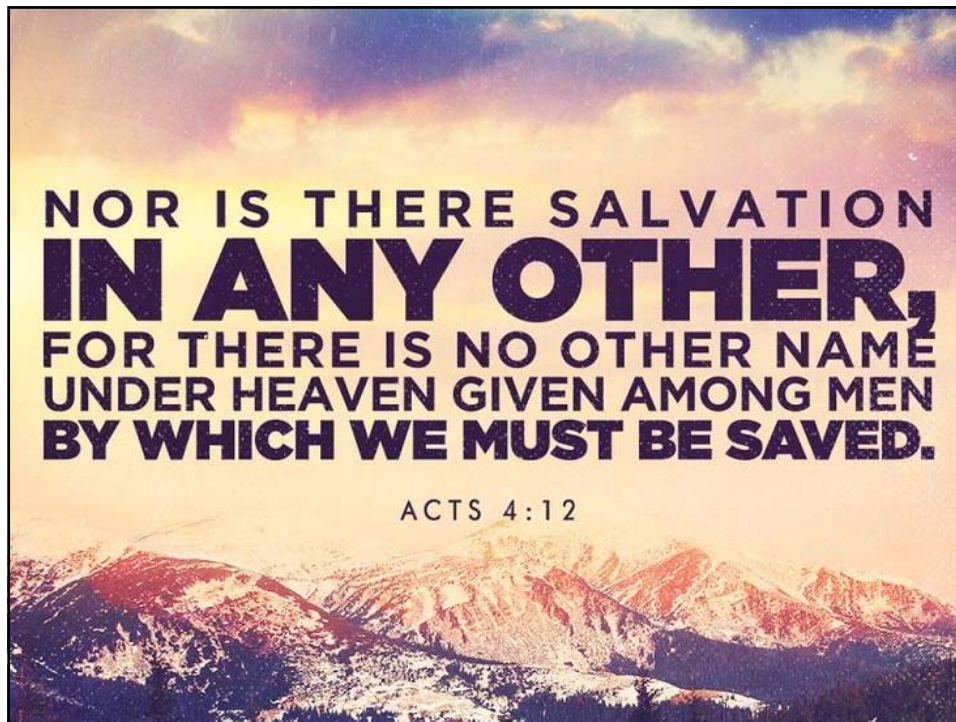


Acts 4

- ¹ Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, ² being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.
- ⁵ And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, ⁶ as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.
- ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

- ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,
 "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.
- ¹¹ This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'
- ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."





The Name of Jesus Forbidden

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them *is* evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny *it*."

¹⁷ But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

¹⁸ So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

ACTS 4:19 - BUT PETER AND JOHN ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,



"WHETHER IT IS RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD TO LISTEN TO YOU MORE THAN TO GOD, YOU JUDGE."

²¹ So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. ²² For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. ²³ And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

'Why did the nations rage,

And the people plot vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,

And the rulers were gathered together

Against the LORD and against His Christ.'

[Psalm 2:1-2]

Psalm 2 – Spiritual (Cosmic) War

*"For we wrestle
not against flesh
and blood, but
against
principalities,
against powers,
against the rulers
of the darkness
of this world,
against spiritual
wickedness in
high places."*

[Ephesians 6:12]

Verse	Bible Verse (KJV)
1	Why do the nations rage, and the peoples imagine a vain thing?
2	The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying ,
3	Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
4	He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
5	Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure:
6	Yet I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.
7	I will tell of the decree: the LORD said unto me, Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee.
8	Ask of me, and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
9	Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
10	Now therefore be wise, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
11	Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
12	Kiss the son, lest he be angry, and ye perish in the way, for his wrath will soon be kindled. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalm 2 – Spiritual (Cosmic) War

Speaker	To Whom	Verse	Bible Verse (KJV)
The Holy Spirit	To the Father and Son regarding the Nations	1	Why do the nations rage, and the peoples imagine a vain thing?
		2	The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying ,
		3	Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
The Father	The Son (and Holy Spirit)	4	He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
		5	Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure:
		6	Yet I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.
The Son, quoting the Father	The Father (and Holy Spirit)	7	I will tell of the decree: the LORD said unto me, Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee.
		8	Ask of me, and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
		9	Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
The Holy Spirit	The Nations	10	Now therefore be wise, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
		11	Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
		12	Kiss the son, lest he be angry, and ye perish in the way, for his wrath will soon be kindled. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

²⁷ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

*NOW, Lord,
CONSIDER THEIR
THREATS AND ENABLE
YOUR SERVANTS
TO speak
YOUR WORD WITH
great boldness*



³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Sharing in All Things



³² Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

³⁴ Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

³⁶ And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷ having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5

Lying to the Holy Spirit

¹ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ² And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said,

"Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?

⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

⁶ And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*.



⁷ Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?"

She said, "Yes, for so much."

⁹ Then Peter said to her,

"How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out."

¹⁰ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband.

¹¹ So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. ¹² And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. ¹³ Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

¹⁴ And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.



¹⁷ Then the high priest rose up, and all those who *were* with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, ¹⁸ and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ “Go, **stand** in the temple and **speak** to the people all the words of this life.”



GO
•
STAND
•
SPEAK

GO • STAND • SPEAK

²¹ And when they heard *that*, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught.

But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

²² But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, ²³ saying, “Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

²⁴ Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be.

²⁵ So one came and told them, saying,

“Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!”

²⁶ Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸ saying,

“Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?

And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!”



²⁹ But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said:

“We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so* also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

³³ When they heard *this*, they were furious and plotted to kill them.

³⁴ Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while.



³⁵ And he said to them:

“Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing.

³⁷ “After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed.

³⁸ “And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”

“Leave them alone! For if their work is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop it.”

⁴⁰ And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.



Acts 6

Seven Chosen to Serve

¹ Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said,

“It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose

- Stephen **"crowned"**, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,
- Philip,
- Prochorus,
- Nicanor,
- Timon,
- Parmenas, and
- Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

- "Lover of horses"
- "Leader of the chorus"
- "Conqueror"
- "Honourable"
- "Abiding (constant)"
- "Victor of the people"

⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

⁷ Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.