

Bible Study – Outline

ACTS

<u>Author</u>	Luke
<u>Date Written</u>	Between 63 – 70 AD
<u>Audience:</u>	Theophilus - New Christians and non- Christians

Major Theme(s)

- The building of The Church
- The work of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit
- The history of the acts of the Holy Spirit through primarily Peter and Paul

Key People

Jesus Christ, Peter, James, Cornelius, James (brother of Jesus), Barnabas, Stephen, Philip, Paul, Timothy, Lydia, Silas, Titus, Apollos, Agabus, Ananias, Sapphira, Felix, Festus, Agrippa, Luke

Major Messages

- The importance of the Holy Spirit
- Witnessing

Holy Spirit (NIV) appears 41 times in Acts.

Holy Ghost (KJV) appears 41 times in Acts.

Strong's 4151 - Pneuma

the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son

- a. Sometimes referred to in a way which emphasizes his personality and character (the \\Holy\\ Spirit)
- b. Sometimes referred to in a way which emphasizes his work and power (the Spirit of \\Truth\\)
- c. Never referred to as a depersonalized force

ACTS

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	1 - 2
Prologue, the Resurrection, Appearance, and Ascension of Jesus Christ	1:1-10
The Promise of the Holy Spirit	1:11
The appointment of Mathias	1:12-26
Pentecost, the dramatic entrance of the Holy Spirit	2
THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM JERUSALEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH	3-28
Witness in Jerusalem	3-7
Peter Heals and Preaches	3
Peter and John minister in chains	4:1-31
Early church grows and shares	4:32-37
Ananias and Sapphira:	5:1-11
Miracles of the Apostles	5:12-16
Persecution of the Apostles	5:17-42
Deacons appointed, Stephen martyred	6 - 7
Witness in Judea and Samaria	8-12
Saul persecutes the church	8:1-3
The witness of Philip to the Samaritans and the Ethiopian eunuch	8:4-40
The conversion of Saul (Paul)	9:1-31
The witness of Peter, healings, raising Dorcas, witnessing to Cornelius, beginning of the witness to the Gentiles	9:32-11:18
The witness to the Antioch church	11:19-30
Herod persecutes the church	12
Witness to the ends of the earth	13-28
The first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas	13-14
The Jerusalem Council: law vs grace	15:1-35
The second missionary journey	15:36-41
The ministry in Philippi	16
The Bereans search the scriptures	17
Paul's ministry with Aquila and Priscilla	18
The Third missionary Journey	18:23-21:16
Paul goes to Rome	21:17-28:31

Key Scriptures

- Acts 1: 2-5 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 1:8 * "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38. Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
- Acts 7:51-52 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52. "Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;
- Acts 8:12-17 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. 13. Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. 14. Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, 15. who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17. Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:47 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47. "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" 48. And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Acts 13:15-42 Paul's message and preaching of the Gospel.

Acts 22:17-21 "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking to me. 'Quick!' he said. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.' " 'Lord,' I replied, 'these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' "

* see note in Life Application Bible for this verse

Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus Christ speak about during the 40 days prior to His ascension?
2. What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus Christ?
3. What was it that the disciples expected to happen – Acts 1:4-5 - that Christ asked them to wait for and what was their expectation regarding Israel?
4. Compare Acts 2:1-21 with Joel 2:28-32 – which promises have been manifested, and which remain to be fulfilled?
5. Why were Peter and John able to be so courageous in front of the religious rulers? Are there steps we should be taking to be a bold and fearless witness for Jesus Christ?
6. What was Paul's purpose? Acts 9:16
7. What example(s) did Paul provide to Christians in his time and for us today?
8. What was the good news Philip preached? Acts 8:12
9. What is the good news mentioned in Acts 10:36 and 13:32?
10. Why is Acts considered an unfinished book?
11. What are the main teachings of Paul? Acts 28:30-31

Resources Used

Adventuring Through the Bible by Ray Stedman
God's Unfinished Book - by Ray Stedman
Life Application Bible (NIV) - Zondervan and Tyndale House.