

## Book 44: Acts

*“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 (NKJV)*

- The Acts of the Apostles, written by Luke, is a sequel to Luke’s Gospel.
- It is the only book in the Bible devoted to the history of the early church.
- Acts is not a complete account of what happened in those days; it focuses mostly on the work of Peter and then Paul, with many others mentioned in a more incidental way.
  
- The stories of Acts supply much important information, without which the New Testament would seem woefully incomplete.
- Acts explains for us all of the following:
  - The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the church.
  - The conversion of Saul of Tarsus – the Apostle Paul.
  - The inclusion of the Gentiles in the plan of God.
  - The spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to the nations.
  
- Acts is filled with vivid examples from the lives and ministries of early believers. In many ways these provide a model for us.
- Therefore, Acts answers a crucial question that each of us has good reason to ask, namely:

*“What did Christianity look like in the lives of those believers who were closest in both time and location to Jesus?”*

### **An Outline of Acts**

- The Gospel in Jerusalem 1-7
- The Gospel in Judea and Samaria 8-9
- The Gospel Reaches the Gentiles 10-15
- The Gospel Expanded by Missionaries 16-20
- The Gospel and Paul’s Imprisonment 21-28

## Key Verses in Acts

- In a moment we will look at seven key portions of the book of Acts.
- These verses will all provide the basis for our discussion of the book.
- Prayerfully consider what each one has to say to us and why that is important for the functioning of the church today.

- The Holy Spirit's Empowering 1:8
- The Life of the Early Church 2:42
- Speaking with Boldness 4:31
- Preaching Everywhere 8:4
- A Specific Calling to Ministry 13:2-3
- Commitment to Finish the Race 20:24
- An Incomplete End to the Book 28:30-31