Be Witnessing Acts

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore BibleStudyDownloads.org

The Book of Acts in 3 Minutes (TheChurchatBrookHills.mp4)

The Witness Stand



Is this you?



Many Fear Evangelism!



"When I was a kid, I would go up to someone's porch, ring the doorbell, and run like the dickens. I still do it, except now our church calls it 'outreach training.'

Billy Graham



There are ineffective ways to witness.

Is this your cup?

I'D RATHER BE WITNESSING

Key Verse of Acts

"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 1:8).

Why should we be witnessing?



Who was Dr. Luke?

Medical doctor Traveling companion of Paul Articulate historian & writer

The Roman Empire

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NAU).





I. God has gone ahead of us so we can begin where we are (1:1–6:7).

God began the kingdom expansion in Jerusalem (Acts 1:1–6:7).

Jerusalem: God began the Church right at home for the first believers (Acts 1–2).

Acts 1:8 NAU

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."





GOSPEL	GOSPEL	GOSPEL	GOSPEL
MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN

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Acts 2

The Spirit Came at Pentecost (Acts 2)

Jews at Pentecost—Acts 2:9-11 132

ASIA (8)

PONTUS (7)

CAPPADOCIA (6)

PHRYGIA (9) PAMPHILIA (10)

Mesopotamia (4)

Media (2)

Parthia (1)

Elam (3)

CYRENE (12)

CRETE (14)

Jerusalem JUDEA (5)

ASIA—Roman Empire Provinces Media—Parthian Empire Provinces Rome—Cities CRETE—Islands

Rome (13)

Miles	0	200	400	600	800	1000
Kms	0	300	600	900	1200	1500

EGYPT (11)

(1) (2) (3) etc. indicate sequence in Acts 2:9-11

ARABIA (15)

Peter Led 3000 to Christ at Pentecost

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

Acts 2:41 NIV



Acts 3

Peter & John Before the Sanhedrin



Acts 3 & 4

Acts 4

Joseph Called Barnabas Acts 4:36-37

Acts 5

Ananias & Sapphira





Grace, yes, but there is still divine discipline...



Acts 6

"The Seven"







I. God has gone ahead of us so we can begin where we are (1:1–6:7).
II. God gets the glory when we witness outside our comfort zone (6:8–8:40).



Paul approved of Stephen's Stoning

Acts 7:58; 8:1

God's Plan: The church didn't follow... Acts 1:8 so God caused... Acts 8:1 "But you shall "Saul was one of the receive power when witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing the Holy Spirit has of Stephen. A great wave of come upon you; and persecution began that day, you shall be My witnesses both in sweeping over the church Jerusalem, and in all in Jerusalem; and all the Judea and Samaria, believers except the and even to the apostles were scattered remotest part of the through the regions of Judea and Samaria." earth."

Philip witnessed to an Ethiopian Eunuch



Do you see how God has directed you through difficulty?



I. God has gone ahead of us so we can begin where we are (1:1–6:7).

II. God gets the glory when we witness outside our comfort zone (6:8–8:40).



III. God will use us to spread the kingdom to the last unreached place (Acts 9–28).



The Road to Damascus

Where Paul trusted Christ (Acts 9)

God preserved the Church from division despite new Gentile believers (Acts 9:32–12:24).

God prepared the Jewish church to include Gentiles (9:32–10:16).



Three Waves of Change...

God prepared <u>Peter</u>

God prepared <u>Cornelius</u>

God prepared <u>Peter</u> further

Peter Prep: Step

 Ministry to Samaritans (9:32-42)

Peter Prep: Step 2 Life with the tanner (9:43)





"Woe to him who is a tanner by trade"

• The Jewish Babylonian Talmud

Cornelius Prep (10:1-8)

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Alms & prayers Vision



"Get up, U eter! Kill and eat!

Eat "unclean" food (10:9-16)The sheet **"contained all kinds** of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air" (10:12)

The Jerusalem church had to accept Gentile conversion because this change was from God (10:45–11:18)

Peter defends his lack of prejudice

Herod's Grandson, Agrippa I (AD 37-44), was eaten by worms (Acts 12:23)

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Early Prophets & Teachers

"Among the prophets and teachers of the church at **Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called 'the** black man'), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul" (13:1 NLT).





Key Decisions in Acts 15



Circumcision at the Jerusalem Council (vv. 1-35)

Conflict over John Mark's Restoration (vv. 36-40)



During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him,

> Come over and help us!

Macedonia

Troas

Asia

Bithynia

Paul &

Silas

Antioch

Jerusalem

2nd Missionary Journey Part 2: Macedonian Mission (Acts 16:11–18:22) God reveals himself to those who seek and worship him (Acts 16)

1. Lydiathrough Paul and otherscalled to minister (16:11-15)

2. Slave Girl not through the testimony of demons (16:16-23)

3. Jailerthrough actions of his
disciples (16:24-40)






Felix (AD 52-59) tried Paul in Caesarea, imprisoning him from AD 57-59 (Acts 24). Felix did not find Paul guilty but still confined him.

Porcius Festus also tried Paul and found him innocent (Acts 25)

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¹²⁹ Grandson, King Agrippa II, also found Paul innocent (Acts 26:31)



124 The progress of the gospel in Acts is seen by contrasting the beginning and the end: Acte 1 Acte 28

	ACIS I	ACIS ZO
AD	33	62
Church	Non-existent	Thriving
Composition of believers	100% Jewish	Mostly Gentiles
Location	Jerusalem	Rome
Central Figure	Peter (narrow ministry)	Paul (broad ministry)

We Pursue God, Pursue Others and Practice His Ways



From East to West





1991 to Present











Faculty

25 Faculty25 Doctorates

15 Faculty4 Doctorates

"From every tribe, nation, language and people" (Rev. 5:9)

Why should we be witnessing?



Main Idea of the Book

Be part of God's plan to bring the kingdom message to all people.



What is your role in God's plan that he started in early church history?

Witness in your Jerusalem: inside your comfort zone.

Witness in your Judea and Samaria: <u>outside</u> your comfort zone. Witness to all the world: share until the <u>uttermost</u> part is reached.

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