**Signs, Sealed, and Delivered: God’s Power in Spreading the Gospel Message**

*Acts 5:12-42*

Jim Harmeling, Crossroads International Church Singapore

*God’s power transforms lives* (Acts 5:12-16)

Signs & Wonders

Acts = narrative but not normative handbook

Signs = Miracles that point to truth

“Throughout Acts, signs and wonders ‘authenticate the word of missionary preaching as the word of God.’ It is the word that saves, as people come to believe and put their trust in God as its source and Christ as its content.”

**David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles*, Pillar NT Commentary**

**2 Corinthians 12:12**

“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.”

**Romans 1:1**

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God.”

**1 Corinthians 9:1**

“Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?”

**1 John 1:1-2**

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.

*God’s power overrides suffering* (Acts 5:17-42)

* Arrest & release: God overcomes human resistance to the gospel (vs. 17-26)

**Acts 2** – Holy Spirit arrives; Peter confronts unbelief; no opposition; church is unified.

**Acts 3** – miraculous signs; Peter confronts unbelief; no opposition.

**Acts 4** – External opposition; Peter confronts unbelief; church is unified.

**Acts 5** – Internal & external opposition; church less unified; miraculous signs; Peter confronts unbelief.

**Opposition to gospel increases**

**God’s display of power increases**

**Boldness to witness increases**

**Luke 4:17-21**

17And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
    because he has anointed me
    to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

    and recovering of sight to the blind,
    to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

20And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Isaiah 61:1**

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
    because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
    he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
    and the opening of the prison to those who are bound

**Luke 7:22-23**

22And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

* The rearrest and Peter’s message: God is sovereign & Jesus will be exalted (vs. 27-32)

**Deuteronomy 21:22-23**

22And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.

“Christianity, then, is a religion of postponed honor.”

**Ajith Fernando**

**Jesus**

Raised & exalted

**Disciples of Jesus**

Receive repentance, forgiveness, & Holy Spirit

* Response: confusion versus confidence (vs. 33-42)

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