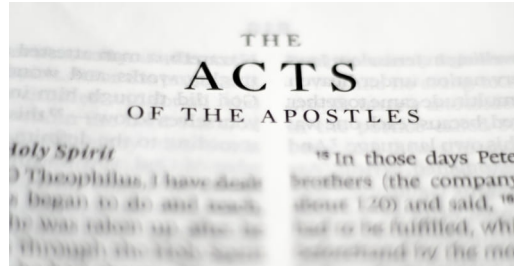


Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
Bible Study and Discussion Group
Topic: The Book of Acts



Handout #1 – Church Beginnings: Chapters 1-6

Key verse: “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

Outline (from The Knowledge Bible Commentary – NT Volume):

- I. The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-6:7)
- II. The Witness in all Judea and Samaria (6:8-9:31)
- III. The Witness to the End of the Earth (9:32-28:31)

Church Beginnings: The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-6:7)

Chapter 1 – The Promise

- I. Introduction/Prologue (1:1-3)
 - a. About the author
 - 1. Who is the author? _____
 - 2. A gentile, a companion of Paul, a physician, and a historian
 - 3. Gathered information and facts; was also an eyewitness to some of the events in the life of Paul
 - b. The intended audience/reader
 - 1. Addressed to Theophilus
 - 2. Believers in Jesus Christ
 - c. The subjects – Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the acts of the apostles, the expansion of the church, and the kingdom of God
 - d. The purpose – to confirm and instruct believers in faith; to provide a history of the continuation of the ministry of Christ after His ascension

and relate the sovereignty of God in accomplishing His kingdom agenda.

- II. Jesus Assembles with His Disciples (1:4-8)
 - a. Jesus appeared to His disciples and gave them commands and instructions of 40 days after His resurrection.
 - b. Jesus commanded the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they received the promise of the Father.
 - c. Kingdom expectations of the disciples and Jews.
 - d. The disciples were told that the Holy Spirit would empower them to be witnesses for Christ.

- III. Jesus Ascends to Heaven (1:9-11)
 - a. Jesus ascends to heaven.
 - b. The disciples are amazed.
 - c. The disciples are encouraged.
 - d. The promise of the second advent.

- IV. Waiting for the Promise (1:12-26)
 - a. The disciples return to Jerusalem.
 - b. They all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.
 - c. The need to replace Judas.
 - d. The process for selecting a new leader, prayer and dependence on God.

Chapter 2 – The Birth

- I. The Birth of the Church (2:1-4)
 - a. The Day of Pentecost.
 - b. The disciples are once again together on one accord and in prayer.
 - c. The “baptism” of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. The “filling” of the Holy Spirit

- II. Witnessing to the Crowds (2:5-13)
 - a. The disruption drew the attention of crowds in Jerusalem.
 - b. The reason for the crowds.
 - c. The crowd’s response to hearing them speak in their language.
 - d. The disciples spoke about the good works of God.

- III. Peter’s Sermon (2:14-39)
 - a. Peter with the other eleven address the crowd.
 - b. First point of sermon, the fulfillment of prophecy

- c. Second point of sermon, proclaiming Jesus.
- d. Third point of sermon, conversion -- the need to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus.

IV. Foundations for Church Vitality and Growth (2:40-47)

- a. Preaching/proclamation
- b. Believer baptism
- c. Practices – continue in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer
- d. Summary description of the characteristics of the early church...

Chapters 3 & 4 – The Opposition

- I. The Power of the Church (3:1-10)
- II. The Preaching of the Church (3:11-26)
- III. Peter and John Arrested (4:1-22)
- IV. The Praying Church (4:23-37)

Chapters 5 & 6 – Testing and Order in the Church

- I. Testing the Spirit (5:1-11)
- II. Signs and Wonders (5:12-16)
- III. Apostles Arrested and Freed (5:17-21)
- IV. The Apostles on Trial Again (5:27-42)
- V. The Choosing of the Seven (6:1-7)

Recommended Reading and Resources:

- 1. A good Study Bible (We generally use the New King James Version)
- 2. Acts Prayer That Can Change Your Church by Toby Lofton
- 3. The Spirit-filled Life by Charles Stanley
- 4. The Knowledge Bible Commentary New Testament, John F. Walvoord and Roby B. Zuck editors