

How many of you have gone on missions?

Why should we go on missions?

To spread the Gospel? Why the Gospel? Because it is the message of salvation. We want everyone to be saved of their sin. We want everyone to be saved of the judgment that will come. That is why we place first importance on the Gospel.

From our Lord Jesus Christ's ministry, we can see that Jesus places a high importance on the preaching of the Gospel. In fact, He states that it is His anointed calling: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel" (Luke 4:18). In a later passage, He mentions that it is His purpose: "I [Jesus] must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose" (Luke 4:43).

Not only our Lord Jesus, but also the Apostles were commissioned to preach the Gospel. Jesus Himself sends His Apostles: "He *sent* them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God" (Luke 9: 1, 2).

"And He [Jesus] ordered us [the disciples] to preach to the people" (Acts 10:42).

The Apostles boldly declare, "... we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers ...” (Acts 13:32).

Not only the Apostles, but We the church today are commissioned to declare the Gospel of Christ: **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19).**

Jesus prophesies that the church would testify to the Good News of the Gospel to all the nations: **"... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).**

Thus, we clearly see that the church is commissioned by the Word of God to go and spread the Gospel to the nations. That is why, we as Christians are all missionaries. That does not mean, we must all go out to missions but we all through our gifts – all our talents, all our time, all our energies and our treasures (all our money) if we truly understand the Gospel should be devoted to this mission -- Acts 1:8

This is the main theme of Acts and it should be our goal as a church. Today, I would like to give you a sermon on Acts – this sermon will be an overview of Acts.

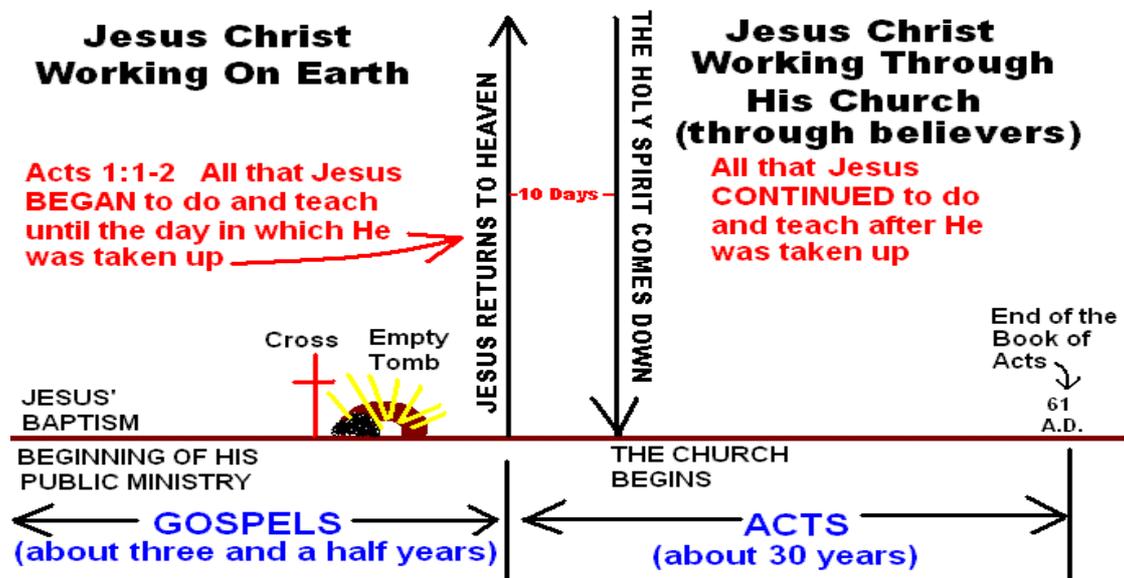
Context.

Do you know who wrote the book of Acts?

2 Volumes or parts

Just like my sermons have parts,

### Luke and Acts: Two Volumes



Acts is often called Luke, Volume II

**“Acts of the Apostles”**

The traditional title of this book is, in some respects, a misnomer. It primarily deals with the "acts" of:

Peter (Chapters 1-12) and

Paul (Chapters 13-28).

It really should be called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit." Jesus had indicated that the next phase of God's program would be "The Comforter's":

Before we talk about the Comforter – the Holy Spirit, does anyone know who the original recipient of Acts is? Acts 1:1 gives us the answer.

Acts 1:1

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Theophilus is the recipient.

What does his name mean?

- Theophilus = "Lover of God"

Theo = God

Philus = Lover of

- A common Roman name
- Beyond knowing that this is a Greek name

meaning "lover of God," precise

identification is impossible.

Between the book of Luke and Acts -- between the resurrection and the ascension -- are 40 days, in which Jesus spent with his disciples:

We see this in **Acts 1:3**

**To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:**

Jesus gave his disciples infallible reason to believe in Him -- that He truly rose from the dead. He gave his disciples **Infallible Proof**

- **No room for doubt (Acts 1:3)**
  - **Presented Himself alive by many infallible proofs**
  - **Was seen and heard speaking of the kingdom of God**

(Over 500 people had witnessed Jesus' resurrection. They saw him, they heard him, they touched him, they ate with him – the appearances were multisensory. )

- **Jesus commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father (v4)**

What was the **Promise of the Father Acts 1:4,5**

**And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but**

**wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.**

And this was a great promise, because Jesus was constrained as a man. Although 100 percent God, also 100 percent man, so he could only be in one place at a time. Yet, in Acts, Jesus is free of that restraint through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent.

And this is better for us, because now we are given the Holy Spirit. Jesus – through the preaching of the Gospel -- can come to people, not only in Jerusalem, but to the ends of the earth. And that is why we have Jesus here in Seoul, and in Canada, the UK, Kenya. All over the world, people have Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Let us look at the **Work of the Holy Spirit**

**John 14:26**

**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

So what does the Holy Spirit do for us?

**From John 14:26,**

**The Holy Spirit does the following for us:**

- **The Helper will come (Spirit of truth)**
  - **He will teach you all things (14:26)**
  - **He will remind you of what I said (14:26)**

If we go to John 15:26, the **Holy Spirit** does something else.

**The Holy Spirit Testifies to Christ (John 15:26)**

**John 15:26**

- **When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. **Now I go to My Father who sent me****

At the end of the verse the disciples heard something that hurt them.,

**Now I go to My Father who sent me**

....

But he says to comfort them from their sorrow:

**Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy**

**(John 16:16-33)**

**A little while -> You will not see me**

**Disciples are perplexed**

**Disciples are saddened – you're leaving us.**

**Your sorrow will turn to joy (A woman's labor)**

Why sorrow? Because Jesus will die, but then He will resurrect. Just like a woman in labor – she suffers and cries in pain, but when she sees the baby out of her womb, her pain turns immediately to joy.

In the book of Acts, Jesus is no longer physically with His disciples,

**But it is to the disciples advantage that Jesus is gone ... Why?**

**The Helper will do all the following:**

**Convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment**

**Deliver the many things Jesus still needs to tell them**

**Guide you into all truth**

**Will not speak on His own authority but what He hears**

**He speaks**

**Tell you things to come**

**He will glorify Me**

**Take what is Mine and declare it to you**

These are amazing benefits, I compiled from Scripture passages. I want to dispel some myths about the **Holy Spirit**. As you can see from this list of what The Holy Spirit does.

The **Holy Spirit** is not – as many Pentecostals/Charismatics think some mysterious, Gnostic force that only special Christians receive – like in Star Wars. “Use the force, Luke!” Or in the New Age movement. This concept of the Holy Spirit is not Scriptural. The Holy Spirit does not cause you to lose control of yourself and speak in gibberish, like in what we see in many mystic religions and even in Greek pagan oracles. No, the Holy Spirit is a person, not a mystic force, and HE is given specific work to do. The Holy Spirit Works.

In **Acts 1:8**

***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.”***

***It says, But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you***

And in addition to this,

**What else does the Holy Spirit do for us?**

***you shall be witnesses***

What does it mean to be a witness? It means to testify to Christ – the Gospel. We testify to Jesus Life, Death, and Resurrection that these events are true! These events actually happened in history. We say, “Amen! Amen!”

**And where will WE be witnesses? Where will we testify?**

***in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***

***God will pour his Holy Spirit from heaven***

***First in Jerusalem***

**and then Judea ... to the ends of the world!**

If you look at this map, to the Jew where is the center of the world? It is in Jerusalem.

**And so we first see the pouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem - Acts 2. And as a result,**

**The Apostles/disciples preach the Good News in Acts 2:**

**(They declare the Glories of God)**

- **God Sent Jesus (v22)**

- **He was proved by miracles, wonders and signs which God did through Him**

- **You killed Him (v23)**

- **God Raised Him (v24)**

- **Verses 25-28**

After Peter preaches the Gospel in Acts 2,

**what was the people's reaction?**

- **How did the people respond?**

**– Pierced/cut to the heart – by the fact that they had crucified their Messiah because of their evil, murderous, adulterous, and lying hearts – because of their sin, they murder Christ.**

**– And so what do they say,**

**– Men and brethren, what shall we do?**

**And how does Peter respond? ...**

**He says, Repent and**

**– Be baptized (a symbol signifying repentance and belief Jesus (sygin;lyfing**

**– dying and raising to life) and entry into Jesus's church)**

**• In the name of Jesus Christ**

**• For the remission of sin**

**– You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**

**And then because they receive the Holy Spirit, because they are now a redeemed community of believers, because they look forward to the return of their savior,**

**The People Continue**

**(Acts 2:42-47)**

**• They continued steadfast**

**– In the Apostles' doctrine**

**– Fellowship**

**– Breaking of bread**

## – Prayer

These are the marks of a church – all churches to be defined a church must have these 4 marks. And if we do so,

*The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved! Those who are being saved – not like the megachurches that compromise on the Gospel, and full of pagans that take over the church. You see if we are faithful – we will grow in NOT numbers but grow in those being saved numbers – grow in true believers.*

The first half of Acts – we see Jews come to Christ through Apostles like Peter. We see in Acts 8 – the Gospel goes through Judea and Samaria, but in the second half of Acts, we see Paul come to faith in Christ and we see

### Paul Preaching the Gospel to the Gentile Nation

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off.” (Acts 13:2–3)

You see Paul was sent by the church to bring the Gospel to the nations.

Paul has a total of 3 journeys

If you look at the **Map of the First Journey**, he preaches the Gospel in major cities in Syria, Cyprus, Turkey.

If you look at the **Map of Second Journey**, he preaches the Gospel in major cities in Turkey and extends to Greece

If you look at the **Map of Third Journey**, he preaches the Gospel in major cities in Turkey and Greece and Italy and possibly Spain (but the Bible is not tell us clearly if he reached Spain or not).

**Acts 26:17-20**

**from [the Jews] and from the Gentiles—to whom I [Jesus] am sending you [Paul] to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. ... [I] declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God ....**

We can tell from those 3 missionary journeys that Paul places great importance on spread of the Gospel.

And he is willing to go through trials, tribulations, and persecution, underscoring how important it was for the Gospel to be spread.

**2 Cor. 11:23-27**

Are they [super apostles] servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

Wow! He went through so much! So much more than any of us. Many of you know that I have gone to Kenya about 8 times now, but the hardship and suffering I have gone through to bring the Gospel to slums and rural areas in Africa is nothing compared to Paul.

What's more? Paul gave up great status, riches, and comfort to be a poor, homeless, persecuted missionary—just for the Gospel. In fact, compared to the blessings that come from the Gospel, he counts all things he previously had (recognition, reputation, power, and wealth) as dung. Wow! In view of my meager passion for the Gospel, the magnitude of Paul's passion for the Gospel brings me shame and repentance.

It should also bring us the church to repentance for not placing high premium like Paul on the Gospel and its spread. In 1 Cor. 9:23, Paul states, "... I do all things for the sake of the Gospel." In fact, in many verses and in just about every one of his epistles, he speaks boldly about his central calling and his sole purpose to preach the Gospel. To underscore his point, he even goes as far as to say: to hell with me!, if I do not preach the Gospel (vs. 16).

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Let it be your life mission, your biggest desire in life to be like Paul, like Peter, like the early church, and like Jesus to spread the Gospel to the nations!

Because of what Christ did for us,  
may we – through the Holy Spirit -- be His witnesses in Seoul,  
and all of Korea and to the ends of the earth.

Let us pray!