

# ACTS OF THE ~~APOSTLES~~ SPIRIT IN THE EARLY EKKLESIA

## KEY THEME

Jesus offers salvation to everyone.

## KEY VERSE – ACTS 1:8

<sup>7</sup> And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

<sup>8</sup> **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.”**

## THE BOOK OF ACTS IN TWO ACTS

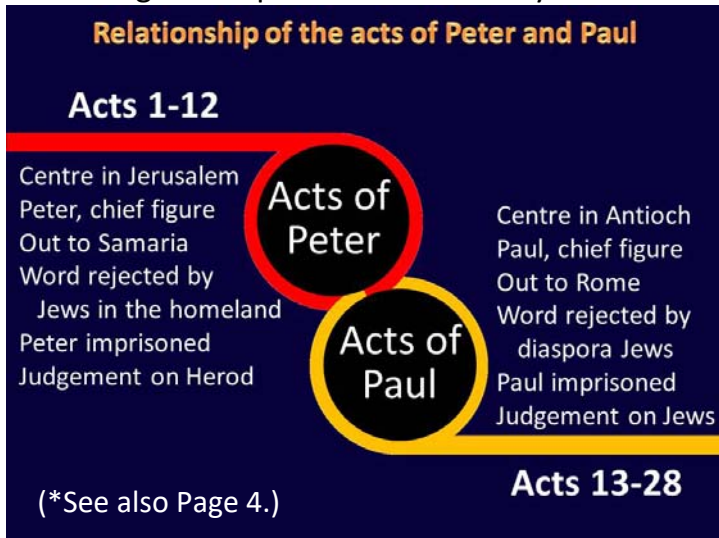
### THE MINISTRY OF PETER (Chapters 1-12)

- Peter and the Jews, Acts 1—7
- Peter and the Samaritans, Acts 8
- The conversion of Paul, Acts 9
- Peter and the Gentiles, Acts 10—11
- Peter’s arrest and deliverance, Acts 12

### THE MINISTRY OF PAUL (Chapter 13-28)

- Paul’s first missionary journey, Acts 13—14
- The Council of Jerusalem, Acts 15
- Paul’s second missionary journey, 16:1—18:22
- Paul’s third missionary journey, 18:23—21:25
- Paul’s arrest and trial in Caesarea, 21:26—26:31
- Paul’s voyage to Rome, Acts 27-28

The book of Acts validates the ministry of Paul by showing how it paralleled the ministry of Peter.\*



### Seven Progress Reports in Acts

1. "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).
2. "So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly" (6:7).
3. "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria...was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers...." (9:31).
4. "But the Word of God continued to increase and spread" (12:24).
5. "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (16:5).
6. "In this way the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power" (19:20).
7. "Paul welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ" (28:30-31).

## Theology underpinning the book of Acts

1. Key subjects in Acts include **God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit**.
2. Salvation is available to **everyone** (Jews and Gentiles; male and female; free and slave; **everyone**).
3. Jews (OT) and Followers of Jesus' Way (NT) have **separate identities and futures**, but are both included in God's Plan.
4. The **ekklesia** (aka, mystical church) is the **Body of Believers** (as in all believers in a town or region).
5. **Revelations** regarding the "mystical church" of Christ:
  - a. Jesus Christ created the church. He is its **origin**.
  - b. The church is one with Jesus Christ. He is its **nature**.
  - c. The function of the church is to be the **instrument** of Jesus:
    - To impart **life** where there is death
    - To manifest **light** where there is darkness
    - To produce **love** where there is apathy, bitterness and hatred.
6. **Enemies/antagonists** of the *ekklesia*:
  - a. **Prejudice** (prejudging, no confidence, playing "church").
  - b. **Personal agendas** (desire for other than God's will).
  - c. **Pride** (lack of obedience to the Holy Spirit).
7. **Lessons** for the corporate *ekklesia* (Body of Christ):
  - a. The church's **passion** must be the glory of God.
  - b. The church's **governing principle** must be loyalty to Christ.
  - c. The church's **power** must be the Holy Spirit.
8. **Challenges for Believers** arising from the book of Acts:
  - a. What is your **motivation**? Why follow Christ?
  - b. What is your **method**? How does one follow Jesus?
  - c. What is your **emphasis**? What do your actions say and what does your life look like?

9. **Baptism with the Spirit:**

- a. of Jesus began **Jesus' earthly ministry** (Luke 3:21-22).
- b. of disciples began **Jesus' heavenly ministry** (Acts 2:1-4).

10. **Speaking with tongues** (unlearned languages), **healings**, etc:

- a. Charismatics primarily see sign gifts as evidence of personal edification.
- b. Non-charismatics see the purpose of sign gifts as the authentication of revelation.

In Acts, the focus is on speaking in **unlearned human languages**:

Acts	Speakers	Audience	Conversion occurred	Purpose
2:1-4	Jewish believers	Unsaved Jews and Christians	Sometime afterwards	To validate (for Jews) God's working as Joel prophesied
10:44-47	Gentile believers	Jewish believers who doubted God's plan	Immediately afterwards	To validate (for Jews) God's working among Gentiles
19:1-7	Believers	Confirmation to Jews of Paul's message	Immediately afterwards	To validate (for Jews) Paul's gospel message

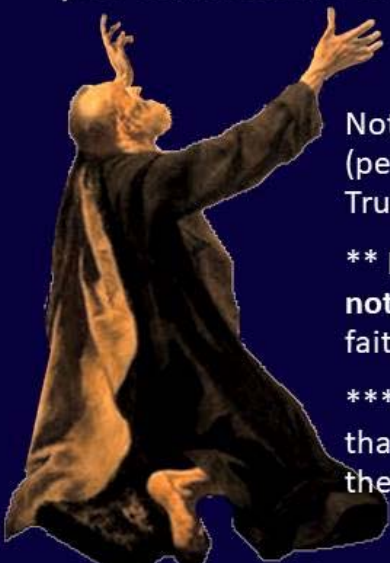
11. **The relationship between faith, repentance, baptism and salvation:**

And Peter said to them,

**REPENT**, and be

**BAPTIZED**

every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Acts 2:38

Note: \*Turning from sinful practices (personal reform) is *works*, **not faith**. True faith brings real repentance.

\*\* If Baptism is required, it is *works*, **not faith**. Over 100 NT verses make faith in Christ the only condition.

\*\*\* The NT Apostles took for granted that one who trusted in Christ would then submit to water baptism.

**REPENT**

1. Change of mind & heart  
back2Jesus ▶ face2Jesus

2. Change of conduct\*

**BAPTISE**

- Spirit baptism (God's prerogative)
- Water baptism Requirement\*\* OR Expression of faith

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12. **Salvation is in Christ alone:**

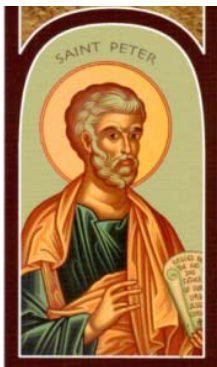
“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12, NKJV)

# Meet Luke (the Evangelist), author of Luke and Acts

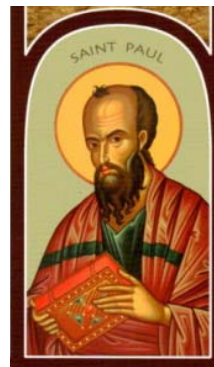
- Luke, a Gentile physician, joined Paul at Troas in AD 51. Some tradition holds him to have been a slave. His hometown has been ascribed to Antioch of Syria, Macedonia or elsewhere.
- Luke wrote in an educated, polished Greek similar to that of Hellenistic historians. His account of the Malta shipwreck has been acclaimed as a masterpiece of ancient literature. His good vocabulary and excellent style holds reader interest.
- Luke shows great skill as a historian. His research is thorough and he knows what to include or omit.
- Luke was an evangelist using his pen rather than his voice.
- Luke portrays Jesus as the saviour of the world.
- Per medieval tradition, Luke was the first icon painter.
- History records Luke died at age 84 in Boeotia, Greece, having never married.



## Parallels in Acts between Peter and Paul



- First sermon Chapter 2
- Lame man healed 3
- Simon the Sorcerer 8
- Influence of shadow 5
- Laying on of hands 8
- Peter was worshipped 10
- Tabitha raised 9
- Peter imprisoned 12



- First sermon Chapter 13
- Lame man healed 14
- Elymas the Sorcerer 13
- ... handkerchief 19
- Laying on of hands 19
- Paul was worshipped 14
- Eutychus raised 20
- Paul imprisoned 28

### More parallels

- Both performed miracles.
- Both saw visions.
- Both suffered for their faith.
- Both made long speeches.
- Both were filled with the Spirit.
- Both preached with boldness.
- Both preached to Gentiles and Jews:
  - Peter primarily preached to Jews.
  - Paul primarily preached to Gentiles.
- Both were imprisoned.
- Both miraculously escaped.
- Both healed the sick.
- Both healed a congenital cripple.
- Both exorcised Demons.
- Both had extraordinary means of healing:
  - Peter with his shadow.
  - Paul with his handkerchief.
- Both raise the dead.
- Both declared judgement on false teachers.
- Both refused worship.
- Both died as martyrs.