



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

Acts

PART 2

PAUL, JESUS' WITNESS TO
THE GENTILES
(CHAPTERS 13–28)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

ACTS PART 2
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(CHAPTERS 13–28)

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PAGE **LESSONS**

1	LESSON ONE: Acts 13–14
17	LESSON TWO: Acts 15
27	LESSON THREE: Acts 16–17
39	LESSON FOUR: Acts 18–19
55	LESSON FIVE: Acts 20
67	LESSON SIX: Acts 21–23
77	LESSON SEVEN: Acts 24–26
89	LESSON EIGHT: Acts 27–28

APPENDIX

103	Acts Observation Worksheets
161	“Acts at a Glance”
163	“Paul’s Missionary Journeys”
165	“Paul’s Missionary Journeys”
167	“Paul’s Missionary Journeys”
169	“What Acts Teaches about the Spirit of God”
173	“Sequence of Events in Paul’s Life after His Conversion”



HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Greek Word Study Tools

Commentaries on Acts

(See commentary list below.)

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

LONGMAN III, TREMPER; GARLAND, DAVID E., EDS.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 10, Luke–Acts, Revised Edition

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

POLHILL, JOHN B.

The New American Commentary, Vol. 26, Acts

Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 1995

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries, etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



LESSON ONE

Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Acts 13–14
“Acts at a Glance”
“Paul’s Missionary Journeys” map
“What Acts Teaches about the Spirit of God”

MY WITNESSES TO THE END OF THE EARTH

Welcome to Part 2 of the Precept Upon Precept course on Acts. This study could not be more timely! God makes it clear in His Word what it will be like as these last difficult days draw to a close. And how we, by our holiness and godliness, as faithful witnesses no matter the cost, can hasten the day of His coming.

May God use this study to so anchor you in truth that the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ will ever be on your lips; so that you, convinced to the depths of your being that there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved, will share it in love without fear, embarrassment, or apology.

It is our prayer that through this study you, fearing God above the fear of mankind, will learn how to hold forth truth under the leadership of God’s Holy Spirit in the midst of this crooked and twisted generation . . . no matter the cost.

DAY ONE

The year is about A.D. 47.

It’s been less than twenty years since Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection—and the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to indwell all who believed Jesus was the promised one, the Messiah.



We have a very young Church with a very great commission—a commission from the Son of God, the Son of Man Himself.

1. You'll always want to begin your study in prayer. Ask God by His Spirit to teach you His Word so that you might live in a manner that pleases Him . . . and brings His “Well done” when you see Him face-to-face.
2. Let's begin Part 2 of Acts with a review of the essentials of Acts Part 1. Look at Acts 1:8, the key verse for Acts, and tie it in with what has transpired in Acts 1–12.
 - a. List where they were to be witnesses:
 - 1) Acts 5:27-32
 - 2) Acts 8:1-5
 - 3) Acts 9:31
 - 4) Acts 13:1
 - b. So what progress has been made from the time of Acts 1:8? Look up the following and note where the gospel is or has been taken and any parallels between these and Acts 1:8. As you do, locate all the places on the “Map of Israel” at the end of this lesson. For Antioch, see the map “Paul’s Missionary Journeys” in the Appendix.
 - 1) Acts 5:27-32
 - 2) Acts 8:1-5
 - 3) Acts 9:31
 - 4) Acts 13:1



3. Take time now and read the themes of Acts 1–12 on the “Acts at a Glance” chart in the Appendix.

Do you live anywhere close to the area covered by the map you just consulted? Have you heard the gospel? How did that happen?

DAY TWO

1. After seeking the Lord for His help in understanding Acts, why don’t you take a few minutes to thank Him for His concern for you, His incomprehensible love in sending His Son to pay for your sins in full so that you might have forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. And all by grace, for simply believing the good news of the gospel!
2. Acts 13 is a long chapter. There’s much to see, to learn, to ponder, to observe—which we will do over the next two days. Try to make it to verse 31 today if you can.

As you observe the chapter, you’ll want to mark the key words listed below. We suggest you make a **Key Word Bookmark**. List the words you want to mark and then mark them the way you will in the text. Colors and color combinations are the best so that the text doesn’t get messy and confusing with a variety of symbols.

On the back cover of this book, you’ll find suggested markings for some words used frequently throughout the Bible. You might want to use the inside of the back cover as your Key Word Bookmark. However, to each his or her own. (*That’s right—people all over the world in 180 countries and 70 languages are marking key words. It’s a great learning device!*) Do whatever it takes to slow you down so you see and hear what God says. Studying like this helps you remember better.

We suggest you mark the following and anything more you want to add. Words with suggested markings on the back cover of the book have an asterisk.

- a. *Paul* (*Saul* until verse 9)
- b. *Barnabas* (After chapter 15, he’s no longer mentioned.)
- c. *church*
- d. *Holy Spirit**
- e. *prayed**



- f. *fasting*
 - g. references to the word of God
 - h. *synagogue*
 - i. *repentance** (in every form)
 - j. *death,* dead*
 - k. *witnesses*
 - l. *gospel,* good news*
 - m. references to the resurrection of Jesus
 - n. *Gentiles* (See *nations**)
 - o. *believe(d)**
 - p. *grace**
 - q. locations* such as Jerusalem
3. Using one of the three maps in the Appendix titled “Paul’s Missionary Journeys,” trace his journey in Acts 13.

DAY THREE

1. Are you ready for another day of observation? Observation is the foundation of accurate interpretation, so lay a solid foundation beginning with prayer. Finish observing Acts 13 and then answer the following:
- a. Where do the events in verses 4-12 occur and what happens that is significant?

 - b. What happens in verse 13 and where does it happen? You’ll see its significance later.



2. Now that you have finished observing Acts 13 and 14, record the themes of these chapters on the “Acts at a Glance” chart in the Appendix. If you’ve ever done a chart like this before on any book of the Bible, you know its value as it gives you a quick overview of the content and structure of the book. If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, you will find one of these charts at the end of every book of the Bible, so you may want to record your information there. Also, some people do their observations in their *New Inductive Study Bible* instead of using Observation Worksheets.
3. Review what happens in Acts 14:26-28.
 - a. Where are Paul and Barnabas?
 - b. What has just been completed?
 - c. Now, using the map you used for Acts 13, trace where Paul and Barnabas went in Acts 14.

DAY
FIVE

1. At the end of Matthew 28, Jesus commanded the eleven apostles to make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to observe all that He commanded them (Matthew 28:19-20). Look at the references in which you marked “disciples.”
 - a. Is there anything you learned from marking “disciples” in Acts this week that would give you insight into making disciples? If so, record your observations below.



b. Although you may be familiar with what Jesus taught with respect to being a disciple, take time to look at the following verses and record what you learn:

1) Luke 14:26-33

2) John 8:31

3) Mark 10:28-30

c. Now, do you see anything from marking “disciples” in Acts 14 that would support any of the above verses on being a true follower of Jesus Christ, a disciple? List your insights below.



d. Would you classify yourself as a disciple of Jesus Christ? On what basis?

2. Well, faithful disciple, are you amazed at all you've discovered on your own? Awesome, isn't it? Just think, you are sitting at the feet of the living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, and He Himself is your teacher through the ministry of the blessed Holy Spirit.

And speaking of the Spirit of God, what have you learned about Him just from Acts 13 and 14? There are pages in the Appendix titled "What Acts Teaches about the Spirit of God" with two headings, Acts Part 1 and Acts Part 2. Find the pages and do two things:

- a. First, read through what Acts Part 1 tells us about the Spirit of God. If you made a list on the Holy Spirit in Acts Part 1, you may prefer to use your list.
 - b. Second, on the page with the heading "Acts Part 2," record what you learn each time you come across a reference to the Spirit of God. Begin with Acts 13 and 14.
3. Now then, when you noted what you learned from marking the Holy Spirit, you saw the term "filled with the Spirit." Let's take a closer look at this term and see what we can learn.
- a. First, does being filled with the Spirit have anything to do with us today? Look up Ephesians 5:18-21. "But be filled with the Spirit" is an imperative, a command, and the verb "be filled" is present tense in the Greek, which indicates continuing or habitual action. So what do you learn from observing this text?



b. Now look up the following verses in Acts and note what you learn from the text about “filled with the Spirit.” Check the context of each verse and examine what it says in the light of the 5 Ws and an H: who, what, when, where, why, and how.

1) Acts 2:1-4

2) Acts 4:8

3) Acts 4:31

4) Acts 6:3, 5

5) Acts 7:55

6) Acts 11:22-24



- 7) Acts 13:9
- 8) Acts 13:52
4. Great! Enlightening, isn't it? Now besides what you've already seen, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, what will that look like in our behavior? Let's see what Paul told those in Galatia.
- a. What do you learn from Galatians 5:22-23?
- b. Note that "fruit" is a singular noun. What does this tell you about "the fruit"?
5. Now let's look at some commands with respect to the Spirit. Note what you learn from each verse. If you're not sure what a word means, look it up in a dictionary.
- Since the verbs are imperatives (commands), write answers in the form of commands using the pronoun "I" . . . for example: "I am commanded" Then write out what you think the commands mean to you practically and how you would explain them to someone.





ACTS 13

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
- 2 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.”
 - 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.
 - 4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.
 - 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.
 - 6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus.
 - 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.
 - 8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.
 - 9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him
 - 10 and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?
 - 11 “And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.
 - 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.



- 13 Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,
- 14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.
- 15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.”
- 16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:
“Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.
- 17 “The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.
- 18 “And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.
- 19 “And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance.
- 20 “All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.
- 21 “Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.
- 22 “And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’
- 23 “Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.
- 24 “Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.
- 25 “And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’
- 26 “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.



- 27 “For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him.
- 28 “And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed.
- 29 “And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.
- 30 “But God raised him from the dead,
- 31 and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.
- 32 “And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,
- 33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,
- ‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.’
- 34 “And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,
- ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’
- 35 “Therefore he says also in another psalm,
- ‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’
- 36 “For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,
- 37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.
- 38 “Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,
- 39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.
- 40 “Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:



- 41 ‘Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;
for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.’ ”
- 42 As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath.
- 43 And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.
- 44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
- 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.
- 46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.
- 47 “For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,
‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”
- 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.
- 49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.
- 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.
- 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.
- 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.



ACTS 14

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

- 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.
- 3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.
- 4 But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.
- 5 When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them,
- 6 they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country,
- 7 and there they continued to preach the gospel.
- 8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked.
- 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,
- 10 said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.
- 11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"
- 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.
- 13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.



- 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,
- 15 “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.
- 16 “In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.
- 17 “Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”
- 18 Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.
- 19** But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.
- 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.
- 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,
- 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
- 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
- 24** Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.
- 25 And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia,
- 26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.
- 27 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.
- 28 And they remained no little time with the disciples.



ACTS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Segment Divisions

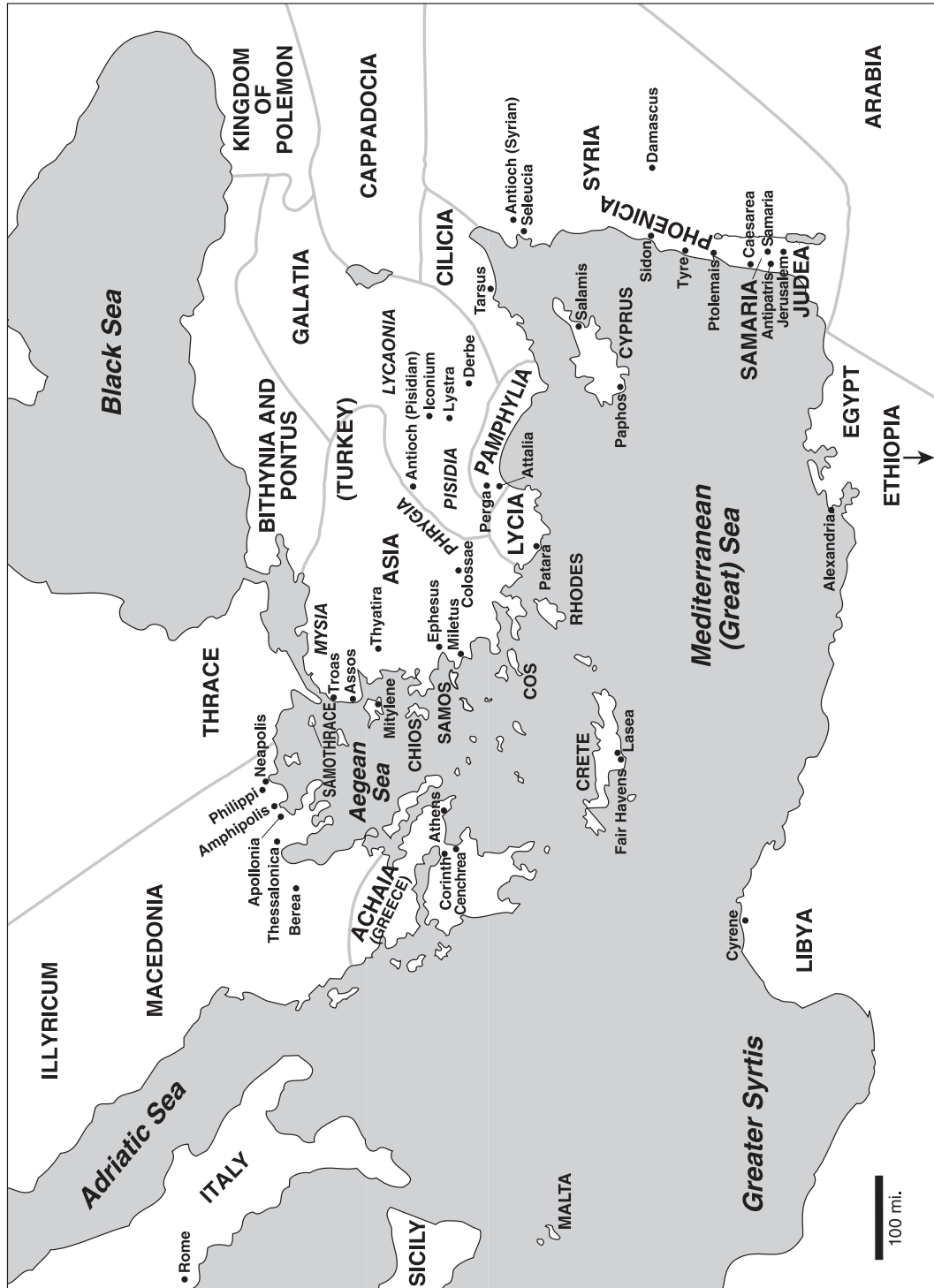
				Chapter Themes
Author:				1 Jesus promised Holy Spirit, ascended; 12 th apostle chosen
				2 Holy Spirit poured forth at Pentecost; Peter witnessed about Jesus
Date:				3 Peter and John healed lame man; Peter witnessed
				4 Jewish leaders arrested Peter and John, before council, released; companions' prayer for boldness
Purpose:				5 Ananias and Sapphira lied and died; Jewish leaders imprisoned apostles, angel released, Jewish leaders beat apostles for witnessing
				6 7 appointed to serve tables; false witnesses against Stephen
Key Words:				7 Stephen witnessed, stoned to death
				8 Persecuted Church scattered to Judea and Samaria; Philip witnessed in Samaria; Ethiopian eunuch
				9 Saul believed; Peter healed Aeneas and raised Tabitha
				10 Peter's vision; gospel to Cornelius's house—Gentiles
				11 Peter testified of Gentiles' salvation; circumcised believers agreed God granted
				12 Herod had James put to death, arrested Peter; Peter released by angel



Segment Divisions				Chapter Themes
				13
				14
				15
				16
				17
				18
				19
				20
				21
				22
				23
				24
				25
				26
				27
				28



PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS





WHAT ACTS TEACHES ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD—ACTS PART 1

1:2 By the Holy Spirit, Jesus commanded the apostles whom he had chosen

1:4 The promise of the Father

1:5 Jesus to apostles just before He ascended: you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now

1:8 When he has come upon you, you'll receive power and be my witnesses

1:16 Spoke Scripture beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas

2:4 All those disciples gathered in one place filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance

2:17 In Joel God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh . . . prophesy . . . visions . . . dreams."

2:18 God will pour out his Spirit on his servants and they'll prophesy

2:33 Jesus received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, poured out this you see and hear

2:38 Repent and be baptized in name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness and you'll receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

2:39 Promise of the Spirit is for you [Jews], your children, and all far off, everyone whom the Lord calls to himself

4:8 Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke to the rulers of the people and elders

4:25-26 Holy Spirit said [prophesied] through the mouth of God's servant David about those gathered against his Anointed

4:31 Peter and John and companions filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness

5:3 Satan filled Ananias's heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land

5:9 Ananias and Sapphira agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord

5:32 Is a witness to what happened to Jesus

5:32 God has given to those who obey him

6:3 Seven men to be picked out, full of the Spirit and wisdom, to be appointed to the duty of serving tables

6:5 Stephen, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, was one of the 7 chosen

6:10 Those who disputed Stephen could not withstand the Spirit with which he was speaking.



7:51 Stephen told Jews they were stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, always resisting the Holy Spirit as their fathers did

7:55 Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God

8:15 Peter and John prayed for Samaritans that they might receive the Holy Spirit

8:16 He had not yet fallen on any of them

8:17 Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit

8:19 Simon asked for power, so anyone on whom he laid his hands may receive the Holy Spirit

8:20-21 Peter told Simon he had no part or lot in “this matter,” for his heart was not right before God

8:29 Spirit told Philip to go over and join the eunuch’s chariot

8:39 Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away when he and the eunuch came out of the water

9:17 Lord Jesus sent Ananias so that Saul may regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit

9:31 Church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, multiplied

10:19-20; 11:12 While Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit told him 3 men were looking for him, to accompany them without hesitation, because He had sent them

10:38 God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power

10:44; 11:15 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word just as He did on the Jews at the beginning

10:45 Circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles

10:47 Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?

11:12 Spirit told Peter to go making no distinction

11:15-16 Peter remembered the Lord’s words, “. . . you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit”

11:17 God gave Gentiles “same gift”

11:24 Barnabas was full of the Holy Spirit

11:28 Agabus foretold by the Spirit a famine



WHAT ACTS TEACHES ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD—ACTS PART 2



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Acts Part 2

What Acts Teaches about the Spirit of God