

St Andrew's Anglican Church
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A Walk Through Luke's Second Gospel

The Book of Acts is often overlooked between the four gospels and the letters of Paul, John and Peter. Once discovered, it can get easily tagged as a missionary journal. Our hope is to dive into the 28 chapters of Acts as if it were God's journal of those who first believed in the saving grace of Jesus. Courage, faith, grit, patience, longsuffering, joy, healing, miracles, worship, fellowship, sharing, the breaking of bread, anger, drama, disagreements, forgiveness - it's all there.

Isaiah 55:11 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Not only that, the Holy Spirit is your teacher.

From Daily Light, Morning ...

You have an anointing from the
Holy One, and you know all things.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. § It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell. § Of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

You anoint my head with oil. § The anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

1 John 2:20; Acts 10:38; Col. 1:19; John 1:16;
Ps. 23:5; 1 John 2:27; John 14:26; Rom. 8:26

On Acts ...

- **Calvin** – “... a kind of vast treasure.”
- **Chrysostom** – Oral reading
- **Stott**: Here Luke tells us how he thinks of his two-volume work on the origins of Christianity, which constitutes approximately one quarter of the New Testament. He does not regard volume one as the story of Jesus Christ . . . and volume two as the story of the church of Jesus Christ . . . For the contrasting parallel he draws between his two volumes was not between Christ and his church, but between **two stages of the ministry of the same Christ**. . . Thus Jesus’ ministry on earth, exercised personally and publicly, was followed by his ministry from heaven, exercised through his Holy Spirit by his apostles. Moreover, the watershed between the two was the ascension. Not only did it conclude Luke’s first book and introduce his second (Acts 1:9), but it terminated Jesus’ earthly ministry and inaugurated his heavenly ministry.
- **Boice**: Luke’s history opens up and embraces the entire church age. At the beginning, we are in contact with the risen Christ and a world of miracles. This is a world we have very little contact with today. But then, as the book progresses, we have the feeling that it becomes increasingly like the kind of world we know. At the end, we find the Christians bearing witness, just as we are called to bear witness, and being persecuted, just as we are often persecuted. **As we study this book we find sound principles of church growth and see the way in which temptation and trials are overcome by the grace of God.**
- **Wiersbe**: “**Witness**” is a key word in the book of Acts and is used twenty-nine times as either a verb or a noun. A witness is somebody who tells what he has seen and heard (Acts 4:19-20). When you are on the witness stand in court, the judge is not interested in your ideas or opinions; he only wants to hear what you know. Our English word martyr comes from the Greek word translated “witness,” and many of God’s people have sealed their witness by laying down their lives.
- **Stedman**: Here in this introduction we have all the elements that make up the book of Acts: a **risen Lord whose life is made available through the coming of the Spirit**, and who will come again in power and great glory, but **with whom we are yet in instant communication by means of the miracle of prayer**. That is the book of Acts. That is the life of the church. These are what make any group of Christians have an impact, and exercise a vital revolutionary force in the age in which they live. May God grant that this will be our experience.

Acts 1:1 – “In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,”

(In other words, there’s more to come! The Gospel was just the beginning.)

John 21:25 New International Version (NIV)

²⁵ Jesus **did** many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Luke 24:44-53 New International Version (NIV)

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ **Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.** ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be **preached** in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has **promised**; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with **power** from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they **worshiped** him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, **praising** God.

Luke 24 is the beginning of Acts 1 – note the echo of the words

One more time: Acts is God's journal of those who first believed in the saving grace of Jesus. Courage, faith, grit, patience, longsuffering, joy, healing, miracles, mission, worship, fellowship, sharing, breaking bread, anger, drama, disagreements, forgiveness, persecution, Providence - it's all there.

Read the whole book.

Thx 4 choosing to come to class.

Shalom.

Independent Reference: seven progress reports on the advance of the Church

- 2:47
- 6:7
- 9:31
- 12:24
- 16:5
- 19:20
- 28:30-31

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