

ACTS

The Triumph of The Holy Spirit



Acts continues Jesus!

We continue Acts!

“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD.

“**My Spirit**, who is on you,
and **my words that I have put in your mouth**
will not depart from your mouth,
or from the mouths of **your children**,
or from the mouths of **their descendants**
from this time on and forever,”

says the LORD.

Isaiah 59.21

After his suffering, Jesus presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, Jesus gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for ***the gift my Father promised***, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days ***you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.***”

Peter replied, “**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.**

The **promise** is for **you** and **your children**
and for **all who are far off**—
for **all** whom the Lord our God will call.”

With **many other words** he **warned** them;
and he **pleaded** with them,
“**Save yourselves** from this **corrupt** generation.”

God *escalates it*

...

Acts 7 – 9

God *escalates it*
more awesome and beautiful works
Jesus Christ is Lord
and darkness is not

Acts 5, 6

God does something public, awesome
and beautiful
to show that ***Jesus Christ is Lord***

Acts 2, 3

Darkness escalates:
propaganda campaigns, rage, violence

Acts 6, 7

Darkness tries to put it out:
Concealment, lies, intimidation

Acts 3, 4

Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized,
and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ***Everyone was filled with awe***
at the many wonders and miraculous signs done by the apostles.

All the believers were together ... sold property and possessions to give
Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.
They broke bread in their homes and ***ate together with glad and
sincere hearts, praising God, enjoying the favor of all the people.***

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2

All the believers were ***one in heart and mind***.

No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. ***And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them***. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 4

So the ***word of God spread***. The number of disciples in Jerusalem ***increased rapidly, and a large number of priests*** became obedient to the faith.

Now ***Stephen***, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

Opposition arose, however, from members of the "Synagogue of the Freedmen" (as it was called)— Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria and the provinces of Cilicia and Asia— who began to argue with Stephen.

But ***they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him*** as he spoke.

Acts 6

Then they secretly persuaded some men to say,
“We have heard Stephen **speaking blasphemous words
against Moses and against God.**”

So they stirred up the **people** and the **elders** and the **teachers
of the law**. They seized Stephen and brought him before the
Sanhedrin. They produced **false witnesses**, who testified,
“This fellow never stops **speaking against this holy place
and against the law.**”

For we have heard him say that this **Jesus of Nazareth
will destroy this place** and **change the customs
Moses handed down to us.**”

“For we have heard Stephen say
that this Jesus of Nazareth
will destroy this place
and change the customs
Moses handed down to us.”

Then the high priest asked Stephen,
“Are these charges true?”

To this Stephen replied: “Brothers and fathers,
listen to me!

The ***God of glory appeared to our father Abraham*** while he was still in Mesopotamia, ***before*** he lived in Haran. ‘***Leave your country and your people,***’ God said, ‘and ***go to the land I will show you.***’

“So he left the land of the Chaldeans and ***settled in Haran.*** After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living.

Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision.
And Abraham became the father of Isaac and ...
later Isaac became the father of Jacob,
and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.

***“Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph,
they sold him as a slave into Egypt.***

But ***God was with him and rescued him*** from all his troubles.”

“When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so **he went to his defense and avenged him** by killing the Egyptian.

Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but **they did not**. The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. **He tried to reconcile them** by saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?’ “But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, ‘**Who made you ruler and judge over us?** Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’

When Moses heard this, **he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner ...**

... He heard the Lord say: 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.'

Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

“Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off your sandals; the place where you are standing is holy ground.

I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt.

I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free.

Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.’

“This is the same Moses they had rejected ...

He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself ...

“***This is the Moses*** who told the Israelites, ‘***God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.***’ He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and ***he received living words*** to pass on to us.

“***But our ancestors refused to obey him.*** Instead, They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. ***they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.*** As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’

Solomon built a house [Temple] for God.

“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands.

As the prophet says:

“ ‘Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me?

says the Lord.

Or where will my resting place be?

Has not my hand made all these things?’

“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: ***You always resist the Holy Spirit!***”

Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One.

And now you have betrayed and murdered him—
you who have received the law that was given through angels
but have not obeyed it.”

When the members of the Sanhedrin **heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.**

But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit**, looked up to heaven and **saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.** “Look,” **he said**, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

At this they **covered their ears** and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.

(Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named **Saul**.) While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “**Lord, do not hold this sin against them.**” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

And **Saul approved of their killing him.**



On that day ***a great persecution broke out*** against the church in Jerusalem,

and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.



Philip went down to a city in ***Samaria*** and proclaimed the Messiah there.

When the crowds ***heard Philip*** and ***saw the signs he did***, they all paid close attention to what ***he said***.

When they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, ***they were baptized***.

Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and ***they received the Holy Spirit***.

After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, ***preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages***.



“Go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” On his way Philip met an **Ethiopian eunuch, an important official** in charge of all the treasury of Candace, **queen of the Ethiopians**. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and **on his way home** was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ...

Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and **Philip baptized him**. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch **went on his way home, rejoicing**.

Philip, however, appeared at **Azotus** and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached **Caesarea**.



Peter traveled about the country, visited the believers in **Lydda**. ... Aeneas was paralyzed ... “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. **All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon** saw him and turned to the Lord.

Peter ... got down on his knees and prayed. Turning to the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and ... she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. **This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.**

Peter stayed in **Joppa** for some time with a **tanner** named Simon.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out
murderous threats against the Lord's
disciples ... *(Acts 9.1)*

To be continued ...

God *escalates it*
more awesome and *unexpected* works
to show that ***Jesus Christ is Lord***
and darkness is not

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“Walking with the Spirit”: we let God decide what He will do and how. We follow.

God loves people through us, darkness tries to hide it.

God has made Jesus “Lord and Christ.”

*What good, beautiful, unexpected things
might Jesus do here, and now,
if we give ourselves to Him and to each other,
like they did?*

