



The Gospel of the Holy Spirit

June 7, 2026

Introduction to Acts



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Introduction:

How will you interact with and encounter the record of the early church? Can you place yourself in this story?

Introduction to Acts:

1. Acts is written by Luke:

- The same Luke who wrote the gospel of Luke
- Believed to be a traveling companion of Paul
- Likely a Gentile believer, with some background in medicine (Col. 4:14)
- Between the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, Luke contributes about ¼ of the writings of the New Testament

2. Acts is written close to the events it describes.

- Many scholars date the writing of Acts to somewhere between 60-70AD.
- The destruction of the temple, which occurs in 70AD is not mentioned in the book.
- The events described in Acts end with Paul's first imprisonment in Rome around 63AD.
- Thus it is probably that Acts was written somewhere around 65-70AD.

3. The book of Acts (and Luke) is written to "Theophilus"

- Both the gospel of Luke and Acts mention a "Theophilus" in the opening paragraph.
- We don't really know who Theophilus is, he could be an actual friend or acquaintance of Luke, or he could be a representative character.
- Theophilus means "lover of God".

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The Purpose of Acts:

1. Acts is historical

- Provides a record of events that followed after Jesus' resurrection.
- Many of the details surrounding kings, dates and locations are confirmed by non-biblical sources.

2. Acts is a sequel to Luke

- The gospel of Luke was a record of the what "Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up..." (Acts 1:1)
- Therefore, Acts is a record of what Jesus *continued* to do and teach.

3. Acts is the "Gospel of the Holy Spirit"

- Luke focuses heavily on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early church.
- Acts provides a critical picture of the *empowering for ministry* role of the Holy Spirit. (Compared to Paul's often expressed picture of the Holy Spirit as the source of maturity and growth in character)

4. Acts gives us a picture of the life of the early church

5. Acts is a missionary manifesto

How will you understand and encounter Acts?

Like a fact based journey through a world history book, amazing stories but detached from your everyday realities?

Or.....

As an invitation to jump into a story that God is still writing, desiring and believing that the stories in Acts can become lived experiences?

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