

Spirit-Filled #1 Life in the Spirit

Author: **LUKE**, a physician and close associate of Paul the apostle

Acts 1:1-2 *In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.*

Addressee: **THEOPHILUS**...“friend of God”

Date of Writing: probably before **70AD**

Genre: **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Interesting Facts about Acts:

- One of the longest books in the New Testament
- Fully one-third of the book is in quotation marks
- Acts contains many accounts of supernatural phenomena...
- Acts contains some famous statements...
- Acts records many intriguing events...

Purpose(s):

1. To record for future generations the unstoppable **PROGRESS** and expansion of Gospel Christianity, despite all manner of obstacles
2. To reveal the risen and ascended Lord Jesus still at work, even after His finished work on the cross, orchestrating through His Spirit the **ADVANCE** of His Church
3. To demonstrate historically that *God intends to bring people of all types into His* **FAMILY**
4. To show specifically how the God of Israel brought His **SALVATION** to non-Jews, which had been His intent all along
5. To demonstrate that this new movement, the Church, was really rooted in ancient, God-given **PROMISES**.
6. To defend and legitimize the Christian movement in the eyes of the **ROMAN** world
7. To inspire devotion in future followers of “The Way” by telling the stories of first generation evangelists and Christian **MARTYRS**

Structure:

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

- 1:1-6:7 Gospel Witness spreads through **JERUSALEM**
6:8-9:31 Gospel Witness spreads to **JUDEA** and Samaria
9:32-12:24 Gospel Witness goes to the Gentiles in **ANTIOCH**
12:25-16:5 Gospel Witness extends further into Asia Minor and **GALATIA**
16:6-19:20 Gospel Witness reaches into the great Gentile **CITIES** even beyond Asia Minor 16:6-19:20
19:21-28:31 Gospel Witness continues on to **ROME**, the capital of their world

Primary Characters: Peter, Stephen, Philip, Paul... but really **THE HOLY SPIRIT** is the Main Actor!

Dominant Themes:

1. Jesus is the Crucified and Risen **LORD** of All People
2. Jesus Sent His Spirit to Create and Empower His Church for a **MISSION** in the World
3. The Church’s Mission is to Continue Jesus’ Work of Evangelizing and Discipling All Kinds of People into God’s Family through Declaring and Demonstrating the **GOSPEL**
4. *The Church Must Have the* **POWER** *of the Spirit to Accomplish Its Mission!*

Main Challenge for Us:

MOMENT-BY-MOMENT,
CONSCIOUS YIELDING
TO THE CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
WHO INDWELLS US