

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

The book of *Acts* gives the account of God's faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit's direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

From Acts Chapter One

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Shout, Dance, and Clap Your Hands! We are safe. We are loved.
We are able to grow in Christ together. Delight in the wonder!

How Are You (We) Using His Power? God has given us His Holy Spirit with power. Use that power to benefit some others at *FCCW* and in our neighborhood. Pick up the phone. Send an email. Have someone over. Encourage them in Christ.

Pray! Ask the Lord to work in us in these ways. Ask others to pray for you in these ways, too.

God's Word—Mini-Series Overview

The Book of God's Glory

God has revealed Himself to humanity through the sixty-six books of the Scriptures. He shows us in the Bible what He is like, what we were made to be, the horror of our rebellion against Him and its galaxy-wide consequences. It also presents His incredible promise to win us back to Himself through the unthinkable sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Let's look together at the wonder of Scripture and consider how its uniqueness should guide everything that we do.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren

January 12th, 2020

Morning Service:

Acts 1: 1 – 11

The Promise of the Father

1. Jesus Is the Lord of All History.
2. He Empowers His People with the Holy Spirit.
3. He Will Come Again to Rule as King.

The book of Acts chronicles the expansion of the Gospel witness through the apostles according to the Holy Spirit's faithful power. Luke wrote it to give a detailed account for those asking questions about the growth of the church beyond Israel. We see here in the opening passage that history is all about our Sovereign Lord Jesus faithfully doing exactly what He promised. Let us trust Him together to continue expanding His Kingdom through His power.

Evening Service:

2 Timothy 3: 10 – 17

Three-Part Series on the Word

The Bible is God's Word

1. The Bible Is God's *Miraculous* Word.
2. The Bible Is God's *Intimate* Word.
3. The Bible Is God's *Authoritative* Word.

The Bible is the very Word of God miraculously given to reveal the glory of God in the salvation of His people. In this divine pursuit, He inflames our hearts to total abandon in exclusive love for Him as He conforms us to the image of His Son through the power of His Holy Spirit. Let us together by faith in Christ make use of His Word—miraculous, intimate, and authoritative by the power of His Spirit and for the glory of God. Amen.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

We are all **witnesses**. We constantly see things and tell others about what we saw. But Acts opens with Jesus' call for His followers to be His witnesses. To what? We are His witnesses to God's faithfulness through Christ Jesus, our Lord. He came just as He said. He has gone away to prepare a place for us just as He said. He will return for us just as He said. In everything He is Faithful and we are privileged to give witness.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Acts 1:1-11; Numbers 14:17-19**. DISCUSS, Moses' plea in *Numbers* is based on God's promises. How does Christ's call in *Acts* reflect God's answer to that plea? What is the Christian's hope? PRAY for God to enable us through the Holy Spirit to give faithful testimony to Christ's faithfulness.

Sunday PM

READ **Romans 16:25-27; Second Timothy 3:10-17**. What is the role of God's Word? Why is it necessary? PRAISE God for revealing Himself to us. REPENT of ways we disobey and disrespect His Word.

Monday

READ **Acts 1:1-3; John 20:24-31**. DISCUSS, Is there any hint in these passages that the person and work of Jesus is anything other than actual history? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to show them His glory in Christ. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Show them the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 1:1-5**. DISCUSS, How is the Trinity evident in this passage? MEDITATE on this—the whole Godhead is involved in equipping us for ministry! PRAY, “Lord, You alone are worthy of all praise, three-in-one. Father God, we praise You as the God of all Creation! Jesus, thank You for Your victory. Holy Spirit, enable us to live out these truths.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 1:1-5; John 14:16-31**. DISCUSS, What did Jesus promise? MEDITATE on the astonishing privilege God gives us to be His ambassadors and witnesses. REJOICE if you are a witness to Christ's sacrifice for you. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit. Help us to walk in His power.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 1:6-11; John 14:1-7**. DISCUSS, Where did Jesus go? Why? REJOICE in the certainty that Jesus will return. PRAY, “Lord, enable to trust You and follow Your Holy Spirit's leading as we await Your return. Amen.”

Friday

READ **Acts 1:1-11**. How have you been growing in your understanding and application of this passage this week? REJOICE for Christ has not left us alone, but given us His promised Holy Spirit! PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance (and our continuing repentance). Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Acts 1:12-26**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.

Acts 1:8

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*