

Acts 1:8 & Jet-Tour of Acts — "The Unfailing Gospel & the Unstoppable Church"

"Without a doubt, Acts depicts the gospel as triumphant. It overcame obstacles from within and without. From outside came imprisonments, expulsions, natural disasters, angry mobs. From inside came the distrust sown by those like Ananias and Sapphire and the sincere theological differences between groups within the church. Despite its differences, the church succeeded in finding its unity. Despite its opponents, it grew, even flourished, until there was a witness established all the way from Jerusalem to Rome!" — John Polhill

The record shows what the Church can do in the face of opposition when it honours its Lord and is full of the Holy Spirit. It has been said that there are five powers governing society:—Eloquence, Learning, Wealth, Rank, the Army. The Christian Church had none of these; on the contrary, all five were arrayed against it. Yet the Church conquered. — Griffith Thomas

"Every Local Church should see itself as a great commission people, called and empowered by God to take the gospel to its city and to the ends of the earth." — Andy Chambers

"As Elijah's mantle fell on Elisha and as other prophetic disciples sought to emulate their mentors, so the ascending Jesus empowered his church with the Spirit to carry on his mission to the ends of the earth (1:9–11)."
— Craig Keener

THESIS — Acts 1.8 - Power for the Mission:

1. **The POWER you have** (v.8a)
2. **The PROCLAIMERS you are** (v.8b)
3. **The PLACES you go** (v.8c)

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General Outline of Acts

1. **Founding** of the Church (Acts 1-2)
2. **Expansion** of the Church = **Jerusalem** (Acts 3-7)
 1. External Opposition (3-4)
 2. Internal Compromise (5)
 3. Intensified Opposition (5:12-42)
 4. Internal Conflict (6)
3. **Expansion** of the Church = **Judea/Samaria** (Acts 8-12)
4. **Expansion** of the Church = **to the ends of the earth** (Acts 13-28)
 - 4 missionary journeys

The Founding of the Church (Acts 1-2)

The Expansion of the Church — *Jerusalem* (Acts 3-7)

The Expansion of the Church — *Judea and Samaria* (Acts 8-12)

The Expansion of the Church — *To the ends of the earth* (Acts 13-28)

"Humanly speaking, it had nothing going for it. It had no money, no proven leaders, no technological tools for propagating the Gospel. And it faced enormous obstacles. It was utterly new. It taught truths that were incredible to the unregenerate world. It was the subject to the most intense hatreds and persecutions." — James Montgomery Boice (of 1st century Christianity)

This is mission impossible. Here they are. Look at them—a little group, ragtag apostles, some of them fishermen. They're unlettered, most of them, don't have any education. They don't have any college behind them. They have no seminaries. They have no finances. They have no prestige. They have no political pull. And they are commanded to go into all of the world (Acts 1:8) and tell the message of a Galilean peasant Who died on a cross, crucified by the Roman government. It's a mission impossible.
(Adrian Rogers)

**3 practical lessons for the church in the Book of Acts (from Tom Constable)

1. the church's passion must be the GLORY OF GOD
2. the church's governing principle must be LOYALTY TO JESUS CHRIST
3. the church's power must be the HOLY SPIRIT

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

— Charles Wesley

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and king, The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, listening to His voice, New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come, And leap, ye lame, for joy.

Then with my heart I first believed, Believed with faith divine,
Power with the Holy Ghost received To call the Savior mine.

I felt my Lord's atoning blood Close to my soul applied;
Me, me He loved, the Son of God, For me, for me He died!

Look unto Him, ye nations, own Your God, ye fallen race;
Look, and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

Harlots and publicans and thieves In holy triumph join!
Saved is the sinner that believes From crimes as great as mine.

Glory to God, and praise and love Be ever, ever given,
By saints below and saints above, The church in earth and Heaven.