

A Survey of the Book of Acts (Part 2):
The First Thirty Years of the Church of Jesus Christ
Associate Minister's Class

10-20-15

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INTRODUCTION: The Book of Acts, the only book of history in the New Testament, chronicles the most crucial three decades of church history. Acts presents several themes, which provide important lessons for the church today. They include:

- A pattern for church growth
- Church problems and solutions
- Missionary strategy
- The place of the Holy Spirit in church life, and the life of a believer
- An emphasis on evangelism

I. Review

- a. Careful study of Acts presents to us a clear picture of the ancient church, so that we can better understand the purpose, plan, and function of the modern church.
- b. We have divided Acts into three sections, in order that we might follow the “flow” of church growth in the first 30 years.
- c. These divisions are based on a logical order, founded on Jesus’ charge to the Apostles in Acts 1:8.
- d. Acts provides many important purposes.

II. Second Division: Acts 8-13 (Judea and Samaria)

III. The Ministry of Philip (Acts 8)

- a. The Apostles Response to the Samaritans Conversion
- b. The Samaritans Receive the Holy Ghost
- c. The Conversion of the Ethiopian
- d. The Key to Philip’s Successful Ministry

IV. Saul’s Conversion and Peter’s Miracle (Acts 9)

- a. Ananias

- b. Saul with the Disciples in Damascus
 - c. The Result of Saul's Conversion
 - d. Peter's Miracles in Lydda and Joppa
 - e. The Church is Growing
- V. Peter's Vision and Cornelius' Conversion (Acts 10)
 - a. The Holy Spirit Prepares Cornelius
 - b. The Holy Spirit Prepares Peter
 - c. Peter Goes to the Home of Cornelius
 - d. Peter's Sermon at Cornelius' House
 - e. The Holy Spirit Falls in Cornelius Home
- VI. Contention Over Gentile Conversions and the Rise of the Antiochan Church (Acts 11)
 - a. Peter Demonstrates God is no Respector of Person
 - b. Antioch Becomes the Center of Missionary Activity
 - c. Relief is Sent to the Jerusalem Church
- VII. Herod Persecutes the Church (Acts 12)
 - a. Peter's Miraculous Deliverance
 - b. The Praying Church's Response
 - c. God Judges Herod
- VIII. Paul Begins His First Missionary Journey (Acts 13)
 - a. Barnabas and Saul are Ordained for Missions
 - b. Resistance at Paphos
 - c. The Journey Continues and John Mark Returns to Jerusalem