

Unstoppable

Stories from the Book of Acts

Facts About Acts

The background of the slide features a series of horizontal, wavy lines in various shades of blue and teal, creating a layered, ocean-like effect. The lines are smooth and undulating, with some areas being a deeper blue and others a lighter, more minty green.

Facts About Acts

- **Written by Luke**
- **Luke-Acts comprises 28% of the New Testament**
- **Written apx. 70AD.**

Facts About Acts

Luke

- Birth of Jesus
- Jesus begins in Galilee and moves to Jerusalem
- Jesus' ministry begins after prayer and baptism when the Spirit descends
- Jesus includes poor and marginalized

Acts

- Birth of the Church
- Church begins in Jerusalem and moves outward
- 120 gathered in upper room in prayer when Spirit descends and empowers
- Church expands to include Gentiles

Facts About Acts

- **Acts is a book of REVOLUTION**
- **Depicts life in the disrupting presences of the Spirit of God**
- **Acts is set within Empire and occupation**
- **Acts is also set in the resurrection power of Jesus!**
- **God the Holy Spirit is the main character of the Book of Acts**

Facts About Acts

- **The goal of the Roman Empire was to shape the world in its own image – but Acts reveals the work of the Spirit and reminds us that we are created in the Image of God!**
- **Acts reminds us to resist Empire and live rebelliously as citizens of Heaven!**

Acts 1:1-2



In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:1-4

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.



Acts 1:1-2



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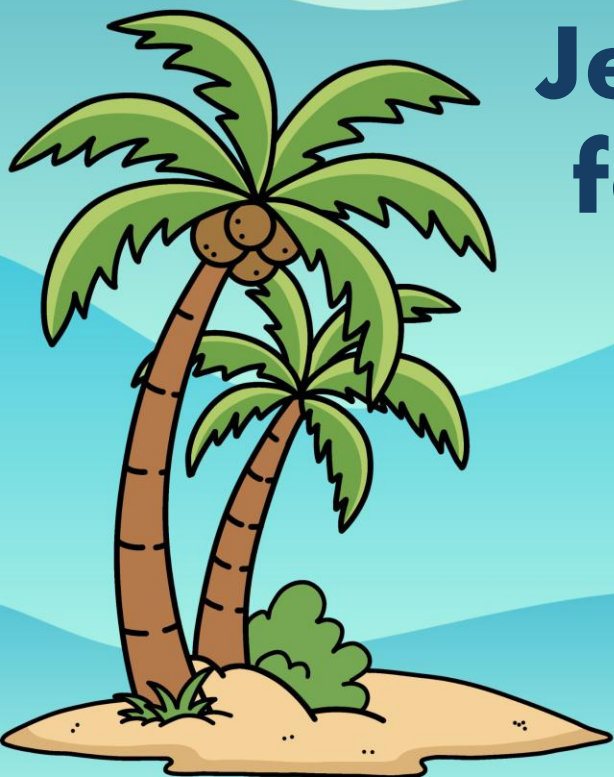
Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



Luke 24:47-48

It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things.



**The Mission Jesus Assigns is
Bigger than Human Ability.**



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Bigger than Human Ability.**

**We are called to do what we cannot
do alone.**

**The mission is IMPOSSIBLE BY
DESIGN!**



Acts 1:3



During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1:4-5



Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:6



So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

Acts 1:7-8



He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:7-8



He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.** And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:9-11



After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Luke 24:50-53

Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.

So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.



Waiting Is Not Wasted.



Waiting Is Not Wasted

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait for the Lord's help find renewed strength; they rise up as if they had eagles' wings, they run without growing weary, they walk without getting tired.

Psalms 27:14

Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.



Waiting Is Not Wasted.

**Our culture values speed;
God values formation.**



Acts 2:1-12



On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 2: 1-12



At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!"

Acts 2: 1-12



Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

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The Holy Spirit Empowers Ordinary People.



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Acts 4:13

The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.



**The Holy Spirit Empowers
Ordinary People.**

**God uses surrendered
people, not perfect people.**





This is God touching, taking hold of tongue and voice, mind, heart, and body. This is a joining, unprecedented, unanticipated, unwanted, yet complete joining. Those gathered in prayer asked for power. They may have asked for the Holy Spirit to come, but they did not ask for this. This is real grace, untamed grace. It is the grace that replaces our fantasies of power over people with God's fantasy for desire for people.

Willie James Jennings

**When God fills ordinary
people with His Spirit, the
Church becomes
UNSTOPPABLE.**

