

ACTS 2.0

CAN IT HAPPEN AGAIN?

thrive

MARCH 26 – 27
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INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Gospels – JESUS IS ALIVE!
- ▶ The Book of Acts – JESUS IS ALIVE _____

OVERVIEW OF ACTS

*“But 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.” ACTS 1:8*

“Luke is a historian of the first rank; All distances are accurate. All city places accurate. Even the shipping routes are accurate. The things he says about the cities, Roman rulers and governors are all historically accurate. In every historical test applied to this book – Luke gives high marks ... In short this author (Luke) should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.”

- SIR WILLIAM RAMSEY,
THE BEARING OF RECENT DISCOVERY ON THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, P 80

THE BOOK OF ACTS

| 1-7 | 8-12 | 13-28 |
|---|---|---|
| The Church established at “Jerusalem” | The Church expands to “Judea & Samaria” | The Gospel explodes to the “Ends of the earth” |
| The Church is ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ born ▶ tested ▶ strengthened | The Gospel is ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ spreading ▶ multiplying ▶ changing lives ▶ breaking | The Witness is ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ extended ▶ received and rejected ▶ changing lives ▶ unifying |
| The Apostle Peter | | The Apostle Paul |
| CITY IMPACT | NATIONAL IMPACT | WORLD IMPACT (3 Missionary Journeys) |

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS - WHAT DIDN'T THEY HAVE ...

- ▶ \$ Backing
- ▶ Great Buildings
- ▶ Organizational Structures
- ▶ Stable Economy
- ▶ Favorable Governmental Conditions
- ▶ Supportive Media

WHAT THEY DID HAVE ... IMPACT!

- ▶ 120 People
- ▶ 32 Countries
- ▶ 54 Cities
- ▶ 9 Islands
- ▶ Rome

WHAT FUELED THE EXPANSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH?

1

A PASSION TO _____

*"The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'" **ACTS 4:1-11***

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem..." **ACTS 1:8***

2

THE POWER OF _____

*"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." **ACTS 4:31***

3

A LIFESTYLE OF _____

*"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." **ACTS 4:13***

HOW DID THE EARLY BELIEVERS CHANGE THE WORLD?

- ▶ ... Not by _____ of it
- ▶ ... Not by _____ to it
- ▶ ... But by _____ within it

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." **ACTS 2:42-47***