

SWOOSH: FIVE FUTURE IMPACTS from the STUDY OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

A. We will gain an intimate acquaintance with the most prominent character in the Book of Acts.

- *“Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the Word. I too decided, after carefully investigating everything from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.” Luke 1:1-4*
- Authorship Luke: *“In my former book, Theophilus...” Acts 1:1*
 - Likely born in Antioch, Syria
 - Doctor, likely trained in Tarsus
 - *“The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.” Acts 9:11*
- *“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach.” Acts 1:1*
 - the first volume that Dr. Luke wrote was all about God becoming incarnate, God becoming flesh, God coming to earth in the flesh-and-blood form of Jesus Christ.
- There’s a new main character in the second volume (Acts) that Luke writes.
 - The Holy Spirit. It’s God, the Holy Spirit. Luke’s first volume is all about the activity of God the Son. His second volume is all about the activity of God the Holy Spirit.
- Before the Holy Spirit example:
 - *“It is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection. So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.’ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.” Acts 1:21-26*
 - They never again make decisions by casting lots once they have the Holy Spirit.
- *“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*

B. We will choose to obey the Holy Spirit’s prompting.

- Swoosh: to make or move with a rushing sound.
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- *“When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying...They all joined together constantly in prayer.” Acts 1:13*
- *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.” Acts 2:1*
- *“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:2-4*
- ‘LIKE’ is a real important word.
 - The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force. He is not a gentle breeze or a mighty rushing wind. He is not a mysterious vapor. He is not a vanishing mist. He is not a ghost. He is not a flame. He is not a junior partner of the Trinity. He is not the third string quarterback. The Holy Spirit is God.

- 'pneuma,' = 'wind' = 'God breathed life into people.' = 'Spirit'
- *"The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."* John 3:8
 - Wind helps us to visualize the invisible and mysterious movement of the Spirit.
- *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;"* Acts 1:8a
- You, (fill in your name here) _____, will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you!

C. We will see community in action and practice it.

- *"All these were constantly together, devoting themselves to prayer."* Acts 1:14
- *"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place."* Acts 2:1
- *"All the believers were together and had everything in common."* Acts 2:44
- *"Now the whole group of those who believed were together in one heart and soul."* Acts 4:32
- *"And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade."* Acts 5:12
 - In those days, indeed, until modern times, people did not sit in pews when they worshiped. Instead, they stood or walked around greeting people and exchanging news.
Quote from Christian History magazine

C(i) We will learn how followers of Jesus deal with conflict and tension in a way that builds community instead of destroying it.

- The language that unified the church - that brought the church together was prayer.
 - *"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity."* John 17:20-23
 - If you have an unhealed relationship with someone, you are impeding the power of God in His church. These first followers of Christ, they got together, and they healed their relational wounds. And as a result, God revealed himself to them in a way that he never had before. And God worked in them and God worked through them and among them, and they ended up changing the world.

D. We are going to be challenged to become winsome and fearless crusaders and activists in the uncontainable, unquenchable, unrestrainable spread of the Gospel.

- Acts 17: Paul is in Athens. He goes to a place, meets with a group of pagans, and he goes through an explanation of the Gospel to Biblically illiterate people, who are culturally unchurched, who are interested in God. But he puts it in their setting, in their language. He doesn't even quote Scripture; he quotes some of the philosophers recognized by them. He affirms their seeking, and then he contextualizes the Gospel to them. This early church was built on an unconditional commitment to spreading the good news -actively sharing the gospel.
- The challenge level, as we go through the book of Acts, is just going to be huge.

E. We will be encouraged, we will be nurtured, we will feed off the triumph of hope over hardship.

- *"He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."* Acts 28:30-31
- Lord help us walk with you, guide us in all we do, together we ask, together we seek and receive. Lord help us keep the faith, thru every trial we face, together we run to finish the race for you!