
The Bible in Four Acts

Act Four: Mission

INTRODUCTION:

The books of the New Testament
History – Acts – Written by Luke
Letters of Paul
Letters of Others
Future – Revelation

We have a purpose and a mission

Scene 1 Commissioning

- A. **Jesus spent time with his followers after His resurrection.**
 - 1. **For 40 days Jesus showed himself to his close followers and many others.**
 - 2. **Jesus gave convincing proofs that He was not dead**

Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

- B. **Jesus left specific orders for his followers before He returned to Heaven**

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18–20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- 1. There is authority for the mission
- 2. There is a goal – to make disciples of all nations (or peoples)

3. There is a process
 - baptize = make converts
 - teach

Scene 2 Empowering at Pentecost

Acts 2:1–4 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

A. The Holy Spirit came upon them

1. God exists as One but with three parts. The Spirit is the third part of the Trinity.
2. Jesus promised his followers that even though he was leaving them, he would send them the Spirit.

John 14:16–17 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

3. The initial coming of the Spirit upon believers was visible and accompanied with signs. The main sign was that they spoke in foreign languages.

B. The Spirit empowered them to Preach the Gospel

1. Three thousand were saved the first day.
2. The Spirit brought conviction to the hearts of the unbelievers and they became believers.

Acts 2:37–38 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” 38 Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C. Every person who is saved receives the gift of the Holy Spirit

1. It happens at salvation

2. It is not accompanied by signs
3. The Spirit never leaves the believer
4. The Spirit does many things in the believer

Scene 3 Expansion

A. Expansion commanded

Acts 1:7–8

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

1. **There is a time frame for the mission.**

It is until a time that God alone knows. We must keep on doing the mission.

2. **There was a geographical expansion of the mission**

Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, remotest part of the earth

B. Expansion started through persecution

Gospel began going to Jews throughout the world

C. Expansion continued to Gentiles (non-Jews through Paul)

Scene 4 The Life of the Church

A. The church is a body with Christ as the Head

(1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Romans 12:4ff; Ephesians 5:22-33)

1. It is obedient to Christ.
2. It cares for itself
3. It works as one to fulfill the mission

B. The church is organized

1. **Leadership**

Pastors, deacons, evangelists, Teachers (Ephesians 4:11,12; Acts 6:1-7)

2. Membership

- a. All saved people are the body of Christ.
- b. Baptized and obedient saved people constitute a local church

C. The church meets regularly

- 1. Early church met on the first day of the week for worship and teaching.
- 2. They also met daily in homes for prayer, study, and fellowship

Hebrews 10:24–25 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.