



*Act*

# Acts 1:1-11

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In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.



# Acts 1:1-11

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<sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”



# Acts 1:1-11

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<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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 1:1-11

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<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”



The background of the image shows ancient stone ruins under a clear sky. On the left, a large, partially ruined column stands prominently. In the center, a stone archway is visible, with other structures and columns extending into the distance. On the right, a row of well-preserved columns with decorative capitals forms a colonnade. The overall scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

**mission**

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**UNSTOPPABLE!**

# **3 layers of Acts**



# **3 layers of Acts**

- **Jerusalem to Rome**





# **3 layers of Acts**

- Jerusalem to Rome
- Peter to Paul

# **3 layers of Acts**

- Jerusalem to Rome
- Peter to Paul
- Growth (6 panels)

# 6 growth panels

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Acts 6:7 (NIV)

So the word of God **spread**. The number of disciples in Jerusalem **increased** rapidly, and a **large number** of priests became obedient to the faith.



# 6 growth panels

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Acts 9:31 (NIV)

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it **increased** in numbers.



# 6 growth panels

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Acts 12:24 (NIV)

But the word of God continued to **spread** and **flourish**.



# 6 growth panels

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Acts 16:5 (NIV)

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and **grew** daily in numbers.



# 6 growth panels

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Acts 19:20 (NIV)

In this way the word of the Lord **spread** widely and **grew** in power.



# Hindrances and barriers

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# Hindrances and barriers

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- Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (5:39)



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- Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (5:39)
- Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor (8:1-3)



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- Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (5:39)
- Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor (8:1-3)
- Herod (12:1-24)



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- Herod (12:1-24)
- Judaisers (15:1-35)



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- Greeks, both secular and religious (16:16-40; 19:23-41)



# Hindrances and barriers

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- Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (5:39)
- Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor (8:1-3)
- Herod (12:1-24)
- Judaisers (15:1-35)
- Greeks, both secular and religious (16:16-40; 19:23-41)
- Shipwrecks and snakes (chs. 27-28)



The gospel grew, not just in spite of, but also because of hindrances and barriers.

What kept the early Christians going in preaching the gospel in the midst of hindrances and barriers?

Can we recapture it for us today?





**What kept the early  
Christians going?**

# **What kept the early Christians going?**

- Presence (1:1-3)
- Prayer (1:4)
- Power (1:8)

A grayscale photograph of ancient Roman ruins. In the foreground, a row of tall, fluted columns with Corinthian capitals extends from the right towards the center. In the background, a large, partially ruined archway is visible, with other stone structures and walls scattered around. The sky is a uniform light gray.

# Presence (1:1-3)

# Acts 1:1-3

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In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus **began** to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was **taken up** to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his **suffering**, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was **alive**. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.



Christianity is about what Jesus has done,  
not what you have done.

# What has Jesus done?

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# What has Jesus done?

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- Suffered



# What has Jesus done?

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- Suffered
- Raised





# What has Jesus done?

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- Suffered
- Raised
- Ascended





# Prayer (1:4)

# Acts 1:4

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On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait** for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.



# Acts 1:14

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They all **joined together constantly in prayer**, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.



Prayer keeps you attentive to God.

A grayscale photograph of ancient ruins, featuring a large archway and a row of columns on the right side. The text "Power (1:8)" is overlaid in the center.

# Power (1:8)

# Acts 1:1-3

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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.”



# **What kept the early Christians going?**

- Presence (1:1-3)
- Prayer (1:4)
- Power (1:8)





The gospel is unstoppable!

Jesus is still doing his work today, through the Holy Spirit.

Let's keep attentive to God in prayer and to keep seeking for the empowerment of His Spirit to continue as His witnesses.