

## Acts Overview – NCBC Women’s Bible Study – Fall 2021

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – We are accountable to the God who created us.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – We have sinned against that God and will be judged.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ – But God has acted in Jesus Christ to save us
4. \_\_\_\_\_ – We take hold of that salvation by repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ.  
(Gilbert, p.32)

The “Bad News”: God is your J \_\_\_\_\_, and you have sinned against him.

The Good News of the Gospel: But Jesus has died so that sinners may be forgiven of their sins if they will repent and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. (Gilbert, p.36) He was raised from the dead and lives today, promising us eternal life with Him.

As a broad overview of Acts we can divide it this way:

- I. The C \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit – Chapters 1 and 2
- II. The W \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit
  - A. Witnessing in Jerusalem (Ch. 3-7)
  - B. Witnessing in Judea and Samaria (Ch. 8-12)
  - C. Witnessing to the end of the earth (Ch. 9-28)

### **Acts 1:** Jesus’ Promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5)

Jesus’ Ascension and His last words to the disciples

*“But you will receive \_\_\_\_\_ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas –

*“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.....”* Vs.14

*“...Scripture had to be fulfilled...concerning Judas...”* vs. 16

### **Acts 2:** The Coming of the Holy Spirit – The day of Pentecost meaning “50<sup>th</sup>”

The Jewish Feast of Harvest or Feast of Weeks – 50 days after Passover

Three signs accompanying the coming of the Holy Spirit:

1. *“Suddenly....from heaven a \_\_\_\_\_ like a mighty rushing wind...”* (vs. 2)
2. *“Divided tongues as of \_\_\_\_\_ appeared...and rested on each one of them.”* (vs. 3)
3. *“They were all \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* (vs. 4)

Pentecost celebration in Jerusalem with 1000’s of devout Jews who have come *“from every nation under heaven”* (vs 5)....*“we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”* (vs. 11)

Peter’s Sermon at Pentecost: Peter explains what they were experiencing at Pentecost, quotes from the prophet Joel and reminds men of Israel *“this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of \_\_\_\_\_, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”* (vss. 23, 24)

Peter quotes from the Psalms and when the people were *“cut to the heart”* and asked what they should do, Peter tells them *“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the*

*forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (vs. 38) ....”and there were \_\_\_\_\_ to that day about three thousand souls.” (vs. 41)*

The Fellowship of the Believers: *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...fellowship...breaking of bread and the prayers....and many signs and wonders were being done through the apostles....and the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (vss. 42-47)*

**Acts 3:** The Lame Beggar Healed: Peter and John going to the temple healed a man lame from birth. *“...Peter said....In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” (vs.6) And the man “entered the temple with them, walking and leaping, and praising God.” (vs. 8)*

Peter Speaks in Solomon’s Portico: Peter points to Jesus as to Whose Power healed this man...”and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.” (vs. 16) Peter reminds the people of the word of the prophets telling them that Jesus is the Messiah, but they *“denied the Holy and Righteous One...and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead..” (vss. 14,15)* and says, *“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of \_\_\_\_\_ may come from the presence of the Lord...” (vs. 19,20)*

**Acts 4:** Peter and John Before the Council: Jewish leaders were *“greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead” ...”they were arrested and put in custody... but many who had heard the word \_\_\_\_\_....about five thousand” . (vss. 1-4)*

While being questioned before the council, Peter points to name of Jesus....”whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead....And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” ( vss. 10-12)

The Believers Pray for Boldness: Peter and John were released from custody, went to their friends *“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with \_\_\_\_\_.” (vs. 31)*

They Had Everything in Common: *“...those who believed were of one heart and soul... Thus Joseph....also called Barnabas....sold a field...laid the money at the apostles’ feet.” (vss. 32-36)*

**Acts 5:** Ananias and Sapphira: *“But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property...brought only a part (of the proceeds) and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” Peter told Ananias he had lied not to man but to God; Ananias died. Sapphira also lied and died immediately. “A great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.” (vss. 1-11)*

Many Signs and Wonders Done: *“Now many signs and wonders were regularly done...by the hands of the apostles.....and more than ever believers were added to the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ of both men and women.” (vss. 12-14)*

The Apostles Arrested and Freed: Jewish leaders filled with jealousy, arrested apostles and put them in a public prison. During the night an angel of the Lord freed them....at daybreak they began to teach in the temple. Leaders did not find apostles in the prison.....brought disciples before the council saying they had charged them *“not to teach in this name” ...Peter and apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” Peter exalted Jesus as Savior. Leaders were enraged and wanted to kill apostles.*

Pharisee named Gamaliel advised *“keep away from these men...if this plan...is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them.”* They took his advice, called in the apostles, beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. *“Then they left the ...council, \_\_\_\_\_ that they were counted worthy to suffer for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”* (vss. 41-42)

**Acts 6:** Seven Chosen to Serve: Widows being neglected; *“...pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty....and they chose Stephen, (and 6 others)...”* and the word of God continued to increase, **and the number of disciples multiplied \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem, and a great many of priests became obedient to the faith.**” (vss. 1-7)

Stephen is Seized: *“And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.”* Men rose up and disputed with Stephen but they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. They *“secretly instigated”* ....and they *“stirred up the people, elders and scribes, seized him and brought him before the council and set up false witnesses....”* and gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an \_\_\_\_\_”. (vss. 8-15)

**Acts 7:** Stephen’s Speech: Stephen gives his defense of the gospel by first giving a history of God’s working in the Jewish nation from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua. Stephen calls the members of the council, *“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”* (vss. 51-53)

The Stoning of Stephen: The council was enraged when they heard these things. Stephen said, *“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”* They cast Stephen out of the city and stoned him. ....Witnesses laid their garments at the feet of Saul. As they stoned Stephen he cried out, *“Lord, do not hold this \_\_\_\_\_ against them”.....and he fell asleep.”* (vss. 54-60)

**Acts 8:** Saul Ravages the Church: Saul approved of Stephen’s execution. A great persecution arose against the \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem. The church was scattered throughout Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Saul ravaged the church, dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria: There was much joy in Samaria as Philip proclaimed Christ and healed many from unclean spirits and physical maladies.

Simon the Magician Believes: Simon the magician believed, was baptized and continued with Philip. Apostles in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to lay hands on believers in Samaria that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Simon the magician wanted this power of laying of hands, and offered the apostles money. Peter said to him ...*“your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.”* (vss. 21-22) Simon asked Peter to pray for him to the Lord. Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the \_\_\_\_\_ to many villages in Samaria.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch: Philip obeyed an angel of the Lord to go on road from Jerusalem to Gaza. There Philip met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the Queen’s treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was sitting in his chariot reading from Isaiah. Philip obeyed the Spirit and went to the eunuch as asked him if he understood what he was reading. Philip

*“opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus.”* (vs. 35) Philip baptized the eunuch, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing. Philip found himself at Azotus, preaching the gospel to all towns until he reached Caesarea.

**Acts 9:** The Conversion of Saul: On his way to Damascus, to bring men and women of The Way, bound to Jerusalem, a light from heaven suddenly shone around Saul causing him to fall to the ground. He heard a voice....*“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?...he said, “Who are you, Lord? And he said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”* (vss. 4-5) Saul followed Jesus’ instructions to go into the city, with his companions leading him, as he was without sight and neither ate nor drank for three days.

The Lord spoke to Ananias, a disciple in Damascus, and told him to go to a specific street and a specific house, to look for Saul of Tarsus. He told Ananias that Saul has seen a vision of a man named Ananias laying hands on him and regaining his sight. Ananias reminded the Lord of how much evil Saul has done to the saints in Jerusalem. The Lord told Ananias, *“Go, for he is a \_\_\_\_\_ instrument of mine to carry my name before the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”* (vss. 15-16) Ananias did as the Lord directed, laid hands on Saul, and *“immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight.”* (vs. 18) Saul rose, was baptized and ate food to be strengthened.

Saul Proclaims Jesus in Synagogues: *“...and immediately he (Saul) proclaimed Jesus.....and confounded the Jews by proving that Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_”.* (vss. 19b-22)

Saul Escapes from Damascus: Jews plotted to kill Saul but his disciples let him down in a basket through an opening in the wall. (vss. 23-25)

Saul in Jerusalem: Saul attempted to join the disciples in Jerusalem but they were afraid of him. Barnabas vouched for Saul and told of his conversion and of his speaking boldly in Damascus. Saul continued to preach boldly in Jerusalem, his life was in danger, the brothers sent him off to Tarsus. The church in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was being built up. *“And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it (the church) \_\_\_\_\_.”* (vss. 26-31)

The Healing of Aeneas: Peter heals Aeneas in Lydda who had been bedridden for 8 years, saying *“Jesus Christ heals you; rise .. and immediately he rose.....All the residents...saw him, and they turned to the Lord.”* (vss. 32-35)

Dorcas Restored to Life: In Joppa, a disciple named Dorcas, full of good works and acts of charity, died. Disciples sent for Peter in Lydda. Peter prayed and presented her alive. It became known throughout Joppa, **and many \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.** Peter stayed in Joppa many days with Simon, a tanner. (vss. 36-43)

**Acts 10:** Peter and Cornelius: Cornelius from Caesarea, a centurion, feared God, gave alms and prayed continually. He had a vision from an angel of God who told him to send men to Joppa to bring back Simon Peter who is lodging with Simon, a tanner. Cornelius sent three of his men to Joppa. (vss. 1-8)

Peter’s Vision: While praying on rooftop, Peter fell into a trance and *“saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending”* ...In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles and birds. And there came a voice...*“Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”* Peter said *“By no means Lord; for I have never eaten*

*anything that is common or unclean.” The voice came again....”What God has made clean, do not call common. This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.”*

While Peter wondered what the vision meant, the three men Cornelius had sent, were at the gate asking for Peter. The Spirit told Peter that three men were looking for him and he should accompany them without hesitation, *“for I have sent them.”* Peter met the men, the men told Peter Cornelius was directed by an angel to send for Peter to hear what he had to say. Peter invited them in. The next day Peter and 6 brothers from Joppa went to Cornelius’ home in Caesarea. Many people were gathered as Peter told them *“how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call \_\_\_\_\_ common or unclean.”* Cornelius told Peter of the angel’s visit to him and invited Peter *“to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”* (vss. 9-33)

Gentiles Hear the Good News: Peter proclaims the Gospel.....telling them that God shows no partiality. God sent the word to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ. He went about doing good and healing....for God was with him. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day. He appeared to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses and commanded us to preach and testify that he is appointed by God to judge the living and the dead...and *“everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”* (vss. 34-43)

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles: While Peter was speaking, **the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.** The Jewish believers who came with Peter *“were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the \_\_\_\_\_”*. Peter commanded them to be baptized and they asked Peter to remain for some days. (vss. 44-48)

**Acts 11: Peter Reports to the Church:** The apostles and brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles had received the word of God. In Jerusalem, the Jewish leaders criticized Peter for eating with the Gentiles. Peter recounted to them the vision of the sheet descending from heaven, Cornelius sending for him, and Peter going to Cornelius’ house. He said that Cornelius had seen an angel who told him to send for Peter as *“he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and your household.”* Peter said as he began to speak, *“the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.”* (At Pentecost) *“If then God gave the \_\_\_\_\_ to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”* They fell silent and glorified God, saying, *“Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”* (vss. 1-18)

The Church in Antioch: Those scattered because of persecution that arose over Stephen, traveled to .....Antioch, *“speaking the word to no one except Jews.”* Some men from Cyprus and Cyrene came to Antioch and preached the Lord Jesus to the Hellenists. (Gentiles) *“And the hand of the Lord was with them, a great number who \_\_\_\_\_ turned to the Lord.”* Church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch to check out this report. Barnabas was glad to see God’s grace and exhorted them to *“remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose.”* **“And a \_\_\_\_\_ people were added to the Lord”.** Barnabas went to Tarsus, found Saul and brought him back to Antioch where they met with the church for *“a whole year and taught a great many people”*. In Antioch, the disciples were first called Christians.

A prophet named Agabus came from Jerusalem to Antioch and foretold by the Spirit there would be a great famine over the whole world. The disciples determined, according to their ability, to send relief to brothers in Judea. They sent relief to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. (vss. 19-30)

**Acts 12: James Killed and Peter Imprisoned:** Herod the king had James killed by sword, pleasing the Jews, so he had Peter arrested and put him in prison. The church prayed earnestly for Peter.

**Peter is Rescued:** While in prison, Peter was heavily guarded. During the night an angel woke Peter, his chains fell off, and he followed the angel out of the prison, thinking he saw a vision. When Peter realized the Lord sent this angel, he went to house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were praying. Peter knocked, servant girl Rhoda recognized Peter's voice and she reported he was at the gate. The others did not believe her but she insisted. Peter continued knocking, they opened gate and were \_\_\_\_\_. Peter told of his rescue, asked them to tell other brothers, then left. At daybreak, there was *"no little disturbance among the soldiers"* since Peter was not in prison. Herod searched but could not find Peter, ordered sentries to be put to death, and left for Caesarea. (vss. 6-19)

**The Death of Herod:** Herod was angry with people of Tyre and Sidon; they asked for peace. Herod put on royal robes and sat on throne delivering an oration. People called him a god. *"Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. But the word of God \_\_\_\_\_ and multiplied."*

**Acts 13: Barnabas and Saul Sent Off:** (First missionary journey found in Acts 13 and 14)

While prophets and teachers in Antioch church were praying and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, *"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'....after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."* (vss. 1-3)

**Barnabas and Saul on Cyprus:** Being sent out by the Spirit...they proclaimed word of God in the synagogues with John assisting them. In Paphos, they came upon a magician, Elymas, who was a Jewish false prophet. The proconsul summoned Barnabas and Saul to hear the word of God, but Elymas opposed them and sought to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, also called Paul, *"filled with the Holy Spirit"*, looked intently at Elymas, called him "son of the devil", *"enemy of all righteousness"*, *"full of deceit...."* *"behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time."* Immediately...darkness fell upon him...***Then the proconsul \_\_\_\_\_, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord."*** (vss. 4-12)

**Paul and Barnabas at Antioch in Pisidia:** Paul and Barnabas set sail...came to Antioch in Pisidia. On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue. The rulers of the synagogue asked them if they had any word of encouragement for the people. Paul stood and gave a history lesson of the Jewish nation - God's chosen people and presented the Gospel; *"to us (the Jews – our fathers) has been sent the message of salvation"..."And we bring you the \_\_\_\_\_ that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus....Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses."*

Afterwards, the people begged them to return the next Sabbath.....many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas as they urged them to continue in grace of God. The next Sabbath almost whole city returned to hear the word of the Lord. Jews saw crowds, became jealous and contradicted Paul. Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly, saying, *"It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of \_\_\_\_\_, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles."* Paul quotes from Isaiah 49:6 *"I have made you a light for the*

*Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”* The Gentiles heard and rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord, *“and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. **And the word of the Lord was \_\_\_\_\_ through the whole region.”*** But the Jews.....incited people, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out....But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium, *“filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit”*. (vss. 13-52)

**Acts 14:** Paul and Barnabas at Iconium: Paul and Barnabas enter the synagogue....(and) *“**a great number of both Jews and Greeks \_\_\_\_\_.**”* But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly for the Lord, who granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. People were divided; some sided with the Jews, some with the apostles. They learned of a plot to be stoned so they fled to Lystra and Derbe and surrounding country, continuing to preach the gospel. (vss. 1-7)

Paul and Barnabas at Lystra: In Lystra, Paul healed a man crippled from birth. The people called Paul and Barnabas gods. Paul and Barnabas tore their garments and told them they are men of same nature as they are....” *we bring you \_\_\_\_\_, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God...(Creator of all things).”* The people were scarcely restrained *“from offering sacrifice to them.”* (vss. 8-18)

Paul Stoned at Lystra: Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, persuading the crowds, stoned Paul, dragged him from city supposing he was dead. Disciples gathered around Paul, he rose, entered the city and next day went to Derbe with Barnabas. There they preached the gospel, **made \_\_\_\_\_ disciples** and returned to Lystra, Iconium, and to Antioch *“strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many \_\_\_\_\_ we must enter the kingdom of God.”* They appointed elders in every church, with prayer and fasting, *“committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed”*. (vss. 19-23)

Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria: Then they passed through Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga, Attalia and sailed to Antioch, *“where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.”* They gathered the church together and *“declared all that God had done with them; and how he had opened a door of faith to the \_\_\_\_\_.* And they remained no little time with the disciples.”

*“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

Gilbert, Greg; What Is The Gospel?; Crossway; Wheaton, IL; 2010  
Preceptaustin.org; Commentary by J. MacArthur, R. Stedman, C. Swindoll  
Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version; Crossway publishers; 2001; Italics emphasis added