

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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SESSION 11 – APPLYING ACTS TODAY

These are not in any order of significance or importance, but a summary of the lessons a study of Acts demands for the modern church.

- It is stated that we live in an age of “ideas” having gone through the age of experiences – Acts is wholly a book that promotes an ideology.
- Resurrection preaching should not be an Easter only event.
- The church is not an after-thought and it is God’s vehicle for changing the world.
- The church partnered with God’s activities – Planning is not bad, but allow God to direct the movement, not be rigid in the details. We must live with expectancy and purpose; yet respond to God’s clear directives.
- Sin is not just a by-product of what we do, it’s the essence of who we are.
- The church in Acts did not just communicate a set of doctrines – but they first and foremost bore witness to what they had seen and heard.
- Acts is often considered a book on evangelistic technique, but it is equally a book on discipleship.
- We cannot ignore the importance of encouragement.
- Acts promotes the continual recognition of leaders and their development.
- Acts helps us understand the place of the Old Testament as a valid witness to the New Testament church.
- The Gospel is for everyone – rich and poor. Today’s church has little to say to the wealthy and successful. We primarily focus on the poor, to the exclusion of the rest. The Book of Acts often points to the Apostles targeting the more affluent because of their potential reach and influence.
- A truly transformed church affects the entire cultural, economic, and social order. Especially when the world sees the church unified.
- The power of our witness becomes unrivalled when our message and our experience complement each other. (The hope that is within us). Miracles alone do not suffice.

- Faith is the single most important investment in life. Every circumstance of life will either be a test of that faith or an opportunity to demonstrate God's glory and purpose through it. Otherwise, the experience can be totally wasted.
- What we hold as community today is not the model presented in Acts.
- Acts demonstrates the power of prayer that is motivated and centered on Kingdom purposes.
- Missions is both a local and global enterprise.
- Apologetics is a part of evangelism, not a separate discipline. Here we have grace and truth as presented from a heart of Christian love.
- The same resources that made the early church powerful are the same resources available to the church today.
- Acts demonstrates the destructive nature of religion when built on self-righteousness.
- The church continues to battle four cultural enemies.
 - a. Ignorance
 - b. Arrogance
 - c. Comfort
 - d. Prosperity

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