

2020 NT Reading Plan
Living Hope Fellowship
Acts 1-9

Transition & Continuation

Acts transitions from Jesus's earthly ministry to the ministry of Spirit-empowered apostles but Acts is just as much a continuation of Jesus's ministry. Luke's first book catalogued all that Jesus *began* to do and teach (the implication is Acts will continue that theme).

1. What's similar between the last paragraph of Luke and the beginning chapter of Acts?

Spirit

The coming of the Spirit on the believers at Pentecost (chapter 2) marks a massive transition into a new phase of redemption history (the outworking of God's plan of salvation over time). Jesus has ascended to the Father but the Spirit has come to fill the church for *mission*.

2. How many places can you find a reference to the Holy Spirit in these chapters? Circle Him in your Bible because you can't do what God has called you to without him.

Mission

The book of Acts sets the stage for Christian missions. The reality of Christ's coming as a man, his perfect life, his substitutionary death, his resurrection, and his ascension make it necessary for this good news to be preached without concern for borders (see that last paragraph of Luke again as well as Acts 1:8).

3. Where are believers to take the good news of Jesus Christ?

Church

Luke never mentions the word "church" in his gospel yet frequently in the book of Acts. What we know of as the church had its beginnings with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost (chapter 2). The church is comprised of all the believers from all over the world, both Jew and Gentile.

Boldness

Not only does the coming of the Spirit install the church and propel worldwide missions, the Spirit gives boldness to the apostolic preaching of Christ crucified and risen. The Spirit's ministry of indwelling believers accounts for the change in the apostle's preaching Christ with conviction, clarity, and compassion, calling for **Repentance**.

4. Which apostle do we hear preach the most in these chapters? What was he doing at the end of the gospels when confronted about being associated with Jesus?

5. Which essential gospel doctrine about Jesus causes the most uproar?

Repentance, Faith & Baptism

Preaching from the apostles called people to action: to believe, to repent, to be baptized. The gospel makes demands of everyone who hears its message.

6. Have you repented (and continue to)? Have you believed (and continue to)? Have you

been baptized?

7. Christianity does not teach works based salvation but the free gift of God to those who believe. How is baptism an outward evidence of inward faith and repentance from sin, not a work to gain God's favor?

Church Growth

8. What is the catalyst for church growth in Acts? What's present every time God adds saved people to the church? What should be our focus, trusting God to grow the church?