



An Introduction to The Book of Acts:

The Birth of the Church

But you will receive power 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... **Acts1:8**

The Book of Acts...

- The book of Acts is the only historical book in the New Testament written by Luke the physician and apostle of Jesus Christ covering the period of 30-60AD as part of his two volume work of Luke and Acts.
- The book of Acts provides an authentic account of the birth and life of the early church revealing the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through the Church and their relevance today.
- Through its 28 chapters, the book culminates the gospels as it further establishes the missional nature of God and His church to reach all nations with the gospel. In here more light is shone to the leadership of Apostle Peter and Apostle Paul.

The Book of Acts...

	<p>The church established at Jerusalem. The church is born, tested, purified and strengthened.</p> <p>Chapter 1-7</p>	<p>The church enlarges to Judea and Samaria. The Gospel is spreading, multiplying, changing lives and breaking traditions.</p> <p>Chapter 8-12</p>	<p>The church is extended to the ends of the earth. The witness is extended, facing acceptance and rejection, changing lives and unifying Jews and Greeks.</p> <p>Chapter 13-28</p>
Key Characters	Apostle Peter		Apostle Paul
Evangelistic focus	Jews within the city	Transitioning beyond the City	Gentiles of other nations and cultures
Theme	The witnessing by the followers of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit		
Key verse	But you will receive power 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		
Theme	Jesus is revealed as the glorified and enthroned savior who is actively working through His disciples for the reconciliation of the lost and the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth by the power of the Holy Spirit.		

The Birth of the Church... Acts 2

1. When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2.** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3.** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4.** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. **5.** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6.** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7.** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8.** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? **9.** Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10.** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, **11.** both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” **12.** And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” **13.** But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

The Birth of the Church...

The Day of Pentecost is the day the church was birthed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we have become temples of God, living stones with Christ as our head and cornerstone. Chosen as royal priests and made holy as possessions of our God called from darkness into His glorious light to proclaim His excellencies to all creation.

There is one body and one Spirit just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift... **Ephesians 4:4-7**

The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is not a particular people or a nation. The church of our Lord Jesus Christ is not a particular denomination... The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ are those who have believed Jesus Christ unto salvation.

The Early Church... Acts 2

41. So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **42.** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43.** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44.** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45.** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46.** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47.** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near... **Hebrews 10:24-25**

Xiamen International Christian Fellowship...



Our goal – Be able to serve and meet the needs of all major demographics and ethnicities living in Xiamen. To be reaching out in the foreign community, and be known by the impact He makes in our lives.

Our mission – To glorify Jesus Christ in Xiamen through learning, worship, prayer and fellowship while reaching out to our community.

Let us pray for the church...