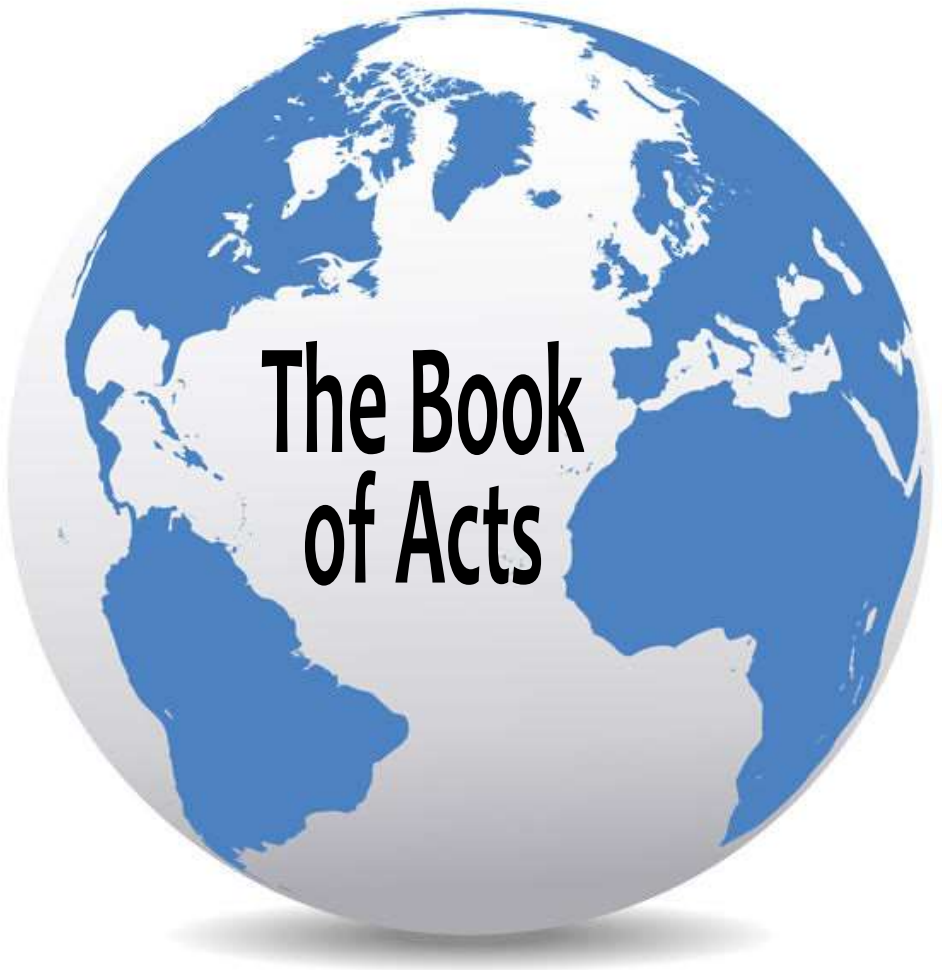


# Let's Worship God

19th-24th February 2018  
Acts



**The Book  
of Acts**



# The Book of ACTS

## **Monday - Acts 7:51-60 - Bold in Our God**

James Guthrie, the Scottish martyr hanged for the Gospel's sake in 1661, was known as 'Sickerfoot' (Sure of Foot). He was once asked by a friend, "Will ye nae jouk (duck) a wee bit". To this Guthrie replied, "There is nae jouking in the cause of Christ!" He had the Spirit of Christ in him as had Stephen centuries earlier. "... Lord Jesus, receive my spirit"

Stephen, as we have seen, has shown that as God's revelation to the Old Testament Church progressed, there were changes in the place and form of worship appointed by God. He also demonstrates, however, that the Old Testament history is one of repeated rejection of the truth of God. Joseph had been rejected by his brethren and Moses by the people. Idolatry was a recurring feature among the people who were to be holy to the Lord. Against this background, Stephen confronts the council with the fact that they are following in the footsteps not of the heroes of the faith, but the unbelieving covenant-breakers among their forefathers. They had the sign of the covenant (circumcision) but not the reality. They were still in their sins and had unrenewed hearts that would not receive the truth (vs.51-53). His boldness is truly astonishing!

The fury of the enemy was unleashed. Stephen saw Christ at the right hand of God. It was not the will of the Sovereign Saviour to rescue Stephen from his enemies - though He could send legions of angels to do so if He pleased. Rather, He sustained His servant through the suffering to death and glory. Stephen did not ask to be delivered, but received into glory. The glory of Christ was enough to make him ready to leave this world behind. We cling inordinately to this present life because we have seen so little of His beauty. If we are believers, our faithful Saviour is able to be our comfort in life and in death. "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8).

### **Questions**

1. Do we see the Lord as equally in control when He does not deliver from trouble, but gives grace and strength to persevere through it?
2. Do believers go straight to Heaven when they die?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Acts 9:4

**Praise: Psalm 129 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## Tuesday - Acts 8:1-8 - O The Depth!

Verse 2 speaks of the sorrow Stephen's death caused. No doubt these devout men felt not only great personal sorrow, but also a great sense of loss to the church. Stephen had been so fearless in the cause of truth - and so powerful in reasoning from the Scriptures! But the Lord is dependent on no man. We must see the wisdom of God in bringing so much good out of this evil! When godly men die, the Lord does not.

"Saul was consenting to his death..." (v.1). Who would have thought this young man was one of God's elect? How foolish we are to try to guess! Spread the Word of God even among those who, to us, look very unpromising candidates - there is a sovereign God in Heaven! "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they shall both be alike good" (Ecclesiastes 11:6). The future apostle to the Gentiles was among the persecutors.

This was not all. Despite the 'havock' (v.3) Saul caused, the Word of God was not bound. Believers went everywhere 'preaching the word' (v.4) - not the term normally used for public heralding by ministers, but simply 'evangelizing'. They spoke of what they knew. Philip, however, is said to have preached or heralded forth the Word to the Samaritans. The Lord blessed both the public preaching of His ministers and the general testimony of His people as a whole. Christ's church was not extinguished by Saul of Tarsus.

Samaria! How could the Word prosper in such a place? But had not the Lord Jesus said that His disciples would be witnesses in 'Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (1:8)? Next, we have the Ethiopian eunuch. A chapter that begins with lamentation ends with the church expanding. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" (Romans 11:33). Pray to the God who sits upon the throne for your neighbours and for the preaching of the Gospel among all nations.

### Questions

1. Can we ever know, in advance, who of the unconverted are God's elect?
2. What makes us think we can?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of those who live around you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Acts 9:4

**Praise: Psalm 68:28-32 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## Wednesday - Acts 8:9-24 - The Next Advance

The special outpouring of the Holy Spirit was now given to the Samaritans; a sort of half way-house between Jew and Gentile. It was not through Philip (vs. 14-15), but through the Apostles. The giving of the Holy Spirit in this way is one of the "signs of an apostle" (2Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:4).

We also learn about Simon. Despite his baptism (v.13) and membership of the professing Church and acceptance that the Gospel was true, he did not trust the Saviour, and his heart was unrenewed. He thought that he could just do a deal with God. His attitude towards the outpouring of the Spirit shows this. His view of God was wrong, though he thought God was somebody to keep on the right side of. In the end he knew that he was a sinner (v. 24), but whether he ever trusted the saviour, we are not told.

### Questions

1. Do you try to do a deal with God? Do you try to earn your salvation or do you come "without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1)?
2. If you have membership of the professing Church, like Simon, do you have the reality which he did not?

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the salvation you have in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Acts 9:4

**Praise: Psalm 51A:4-6 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## Thursday - Acts 8:25-40 - Salvation is of the Lord

This man was an important officer in Candace's staff (Candace was a title like Caesar or Pharaoh). He had servants (v. 34) and was also a proselyte of the synagogue. Perhaps like many he was a "God-fearer" who attended the synagogue but hadn't taken the step of being circumcised. Isaiah 53 (which he was reading) had possibly been discussed at the fast he had been attending. The unbelieving Jews were keen to rob it of its Messianic content because of the uproar about our Lord Jesus.

We are also given Philip's example of obedience when he went to the desert from what seemed a much more promising situation. Most of all we see the hand of God in every circumstance. The meeting of these men in the desert, the reading, then Philip "told him the good news about Jesus" (v. 35).

The fact that they both went down to the water tells us nothing about the mode of baptism, since this would be done if the water was poured on him.

### Questions

1. How does the passage show our dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit if we are to see people converted?
2. Is God in control of everything?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for boldness to speak to people about Jesus.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Acts 9:4

**Praise: Psalm 44:15-19 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## Friday - Acts 9:1-22 - The Apple of His Eye

Verse 4 tells us that the Lord Jesus takes it 'personally' when men afflict His people. This is true even of neglect (Matthew 25:45). How much more does He notice when men actually seek to harm them. How we ought to love other Christians when we consider Christ's love for them! "But when ye so sin against the brethren...ye sin against Christ" (1 Corinthians 8:12). How we should delight in Christ reflected in them - "...the saints that are in the earth...the excellent, in whom is all my delight" (Psalm 16:3). As surely as the world has a distinctive hatred for God's people, so ought believers to have a distinctive love for the rest of the household of faith.

But Saul of Tarsus would only afflict the Church for the Lord's appointed length of time for their good. They suffered "a while" (1 Peter 5:10). All our trials are measured by our all-wise God. Sometimes the Lord ends the more intense affliction of His people by judging His and their enemies, as when He judged Pharaoh and the Egyptians at the Red Sea or King Belshazzar of Babylon. It was otherwise here. He brought Saul out of darkness into His marvellous light - the light of the Gospel. "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified" (v.21).

Saul's conversion to Christ shows the power of God and the sovereignty of His grace. The change wrought in him by the Holy Spirit was the fruit of God's eternal electing love in Christ. It shows us that the God's choice of the heirs of salvation is certainly not earned or merited in any way (1 Timothy 1:16). What an encouragement to sinners ready to despair that their sins are beyond the grace of God - not so! He saves great sinners. And struggling believers, remember that He began the work in us and He will carry it through.

### Questions

1. Christ the King now prepares to advance the Kingdom of grace among the Gentiles. Is Paul who we would have chosen?
2. Why had Saul not committed the "sin which is never forgiven". (See 1 Timothy 1:16). Is there a sin that is unforgivable or is it because such a person never repents? (See Westminster Confession 15:4).

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is able to save anyone.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Acts 9:4

**Praise: Psalm 32:1-5 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## **Saturday - Acts 9:23-35 - The Loss of All Things**

Saul is now a Christian. We have the reactions of that work of God's grace. There was amazement. Some, though confounded, were not necessarily converted but more enraged (v.29). Even the Lord's people were nervous, but Barnabas (meaning, appropriately, Son of Consolation) spoke up on his behalf (v. 27).

Paul had chosen the reproach of Christ and affliction with the people of God over his pharisaic past life and the enjoyment of a good name and standing (Hebrews 11:24-26).

The Churches enjoyed a period of comparative calm (v. 31), in the plan of God. Meanwhile, Peter was exercising his ministry. He was to be the one Christ, the reigning King, was going to use first to gather in Gentiles to the kingdom of God, paving the way for Paul. Peter made an infallible pronouncement specifically to Aeneas (v. 34) (showing that he was a spokesman of God) and Aeneas was instantly healed. The miracle was in the name of Christ showing that He was indeed the Son of God reigning at God's right hand.

## **Questions**

1. Are you willing to give up all for Christ's sake?
2. Do you see the plan of God unfolding as Christ builds His Church here?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Acts 9:4

**Praise: Psalm 84B:1-3 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance  
by Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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