

Foundations of the Church - a study of Acts

Judea - Obstacles overcome Acts 8-12

For the Church to spread obstacles had to be overcome

God is not limited by the situations of life

Review : The Foundation

Essentials of the Foundation Acts 1-2

- A. Resurrection of Christ
- B. The Kingdom of God
- C. Repentance for the Forgiveness of sin
- D. The Baptism of the Spirit
- E. The Second Coming of Christ

Structures Established Acts 2-7

Miraculous growth and growing opposition through

- A. Clear proclamation of the Gospel
- B. Community - common unity
- C. Compassion for all
- D. Courteous and bold handling of opposition

All in the Power of the Holy Spirit!

I. Events

- 8:1-4** Persecution that spread the disciples
- 8:5-24** Proclamation in Samaria
- 8:25-40** Ethiopian believes
- 9:1-30** Paul's conversion and acceptance
- 9:30-43** Peter's ministry In Judea
- 10:1-48** Gospel received by non-Jews
- 11:1-18** Church accepts conversion of non-Jews
- 11:19-30** Church of Antioch established
- 12:1-25** Peter's arrest and deliverance

II. Patterns

A. God spread the messages in various ways

- 1. Persecution - Disciples scattered by persecution **Acts 8:4**
- 2. Situations Travel **8:5,25**
- 3. Strategy **8:14, 17**
- 4. Miraculous **8:26, 39**
- 5. Scripture **8:32-35**

B. God selected chosen leaders

- 1. Peter recognized as spokesman
- 2. Stephen became first major martyr
- 3. Philip was used to reach Samaria
- 4. Paul was converted to reach non-Jews **9:1-9**
 - Ananias **9:10-19**
 - Barnabas **9:20-31**

"The world will never have a Paul until the church is filled with people like Ananias and Barnabas"

C. God breaks down all racial, cultural and language barriers **10-11**
(next week we will look at this)

D. God set limits on the forces of evil **12**

- 1. God's allows persecution and even martyrdom
Some suffer for Christ
The Church is called to prayer
An angel sets Peter free
- 2. God's wrath is poured out on the defiant
An angel strikes him down **Acts 12:23**
- 3. The Church of God continues inspite of persecution
Meanwhile, the word of God continued to spread, and there were many new believers. Acts 12:24

Principles for the Church today

- 1. God is not limited to the ways of man **Isaiah 55:9**
 - a. Planning and strategy are good but not at the expense of the Holy Spirit's leading
 - b. God can bring good out of the evil man intends
 - c. God hears the cries of His people and responds
Always to bring glory to Him not us
- 2. We should use the tools God has placed in our hands
 - a. Our witness - prepared and ready
 - b. The Word - study and rightly divided
 - c. The Holy Spirit -set free by obedience **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- 3. God needs all kinds of followers
 - a. He gives the church **Ephesians 4:11-12**
Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor/teachers
 - b. **But He builds His Church though all who will listen**
Prayer warriors - like Ananias
Encouragers - like Barnabas
Even martyrs - like Stephen and James **Romans 12:4-5**
- 4. God is still on the Throne **Psalms 135:6**
He still raises up and disposes leaders
He set limits on those persecuting the church

**Remember -Next Sunday Joint Service and Grill - 10:30 am
Bring a salad, side dish or dessert**