

- e. Acts 8-12: Philip is the key figure.
- f. Acts 13-28: Paul dominates everything in the final section of the book.

6. Acts 1:8 talks about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

7. Times and dates are not for us to know.

8. There was a real resurrection, a real ascension and there will be a real return of Christ.

9. The disciples saw Jesus taken up in a cloud.

10. While the disciples waited in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit, they constantly prayed.

11. Dynamic, corporate prayer is one of the great keys to understanding what is happening in the Book of Acts.

12. Acts 1 records Judas' death.

13. The speeches and sermons of Acts provide us with an example of how the New Testament writers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, identified and interpreted Old Testament prophecy.

14. Judas was replaced by Matthias as the new 12th apostle.

7. For the 120 people waiting for the Holy Spirit, there was the wind and fire accompanied by their filling, but for the 3,000 converts on the Day of Pentecost, there were no accompanying signs or wonders. They received Christ as their Savior and Lord and were indwelt by the Spirit at the same time.

8. The “tongues” spoken of on the Day of Pentecost were the known languages of the different nationalities and people groups in Jerusalem at that time.

9. Peter quotes extensively from the Book of Joel in his powerful sermon.

10. Peter’s summary of the Gospel in his sermon is called the “kerygma” – the core truths of Christianity:

- a. You crucified Him – but it was in accordance with the pre-ordained plan of God.
- b. God raised Him from the dead.
- c. God exalted Jesus to the His right hand.
- d. God has sent forth the Holy Spirit.
- e. Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.
- f. And then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

7. Ours is a syncretistic and pluralistic world, but there is still only one way to God and that is through Jesus Christ.

8. The oneness of the early church:

a. It was born out of a commitment to prayer.

b. It was centered around the Word of God.

c. They were so committed to one another that they shared everything they had.

9. Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, exemplified that oneness.

1. The fact that none of the deacons mentioned have Hebrew names is important because it shows the beginning of the expansion of the Gospel and Christianity.

2. The story of Ananias and Sapphira is connected to the story of Achan in Joshua 7.

3. Similarities in the 2 stories:

- a. Remarkable progress on the part of God's people is jeopardized by the sin of one person or couple.

- b. Achan imperiled the purity of the nation of Israel as they entered the Promised Land and Ananias and Sapphira imperiled the purity of the dynamic new church.

4. God demands that His people be holy.

5. Regular happenings in the church at that time:

- a. Evangelism was occurring at an unprecedented rate.

- b. The apostles, and the deacons Stephen and Philip, were performing signs and miracles.

c. The sick and demon possessed were being healed.

6. The power and presence of God was evident on the early church.

7. The sin of one person can threaten the progress of an entire church.

8. The answer of the apostles is worth noticing: "We must obey God rather than man."

9. One of the members of the Sanhedrin, Gamaliel, is the instrument of deliverance for the disciples.

10. From the very first, Christians knew that following Christ would mean suffering for Him.

7. Stephen's defense:

- a. He talks to them about Father Abraham.
- b. He recounts the story of Joseph.
- c. Then he cites Moses, the great hero of Israel.
- d. He starts getting direct: "You always resist the Holy Spirit. Was there ever a prophet you did not persecute?"
- e. His broadside is stinging: "God is not contained in your temple."
- f. "You have had God's Law and you have not obeyed it."

8. Stephen was a "martyr" in the fullest sense of the word: "in word, in deed and with one's very life if necessary."