



# ACTS

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

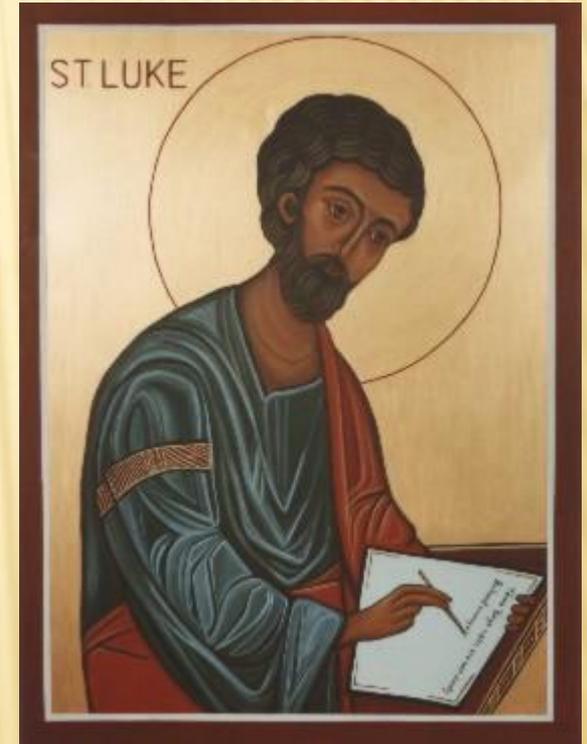
# INTRODUCTION:



- ✘ “Acts of the Apostles”
- ✘ This book summarise the work of:  
the **Holy Spirit**  
(who works through the Apostles and disciples)  
to  
witness our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  
(to everyone and nation all over the world)
- ✘ It is the fulfilment of the commission of the Lord to His  
disciples  
“You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem , and in all  
Judea and Samaria , and to the end of the earth”(1:8)

# AUTHOR AND TIMING:

- × St. Luke
  - + the **physician** and **very educated gentile** from Antioch
  - + a **disciple of St Paul** and his partner in his trips and imprisonment
  - + He was an **eyewitness** to the account he wrote as a close travelling companion of St. Paul.
- × St. Luke wrote it to **Theophilus** who is a prominent Gentile who has received Christian instructions, but otherwise unknown to us.
- × The timing of the book is after **62AD** , when St Paul was first sent to jail.



# MAJOR THEMES :

- ✘ The **establishment of the Church** on the day of Pentecost and the **spread of the Gospel** to all the world(1:8)
- ✘ The great **victory of the Christian mission** under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- + inflamed the hearts and lives of the Apostles and all the disciples of Christ (despite of all types of persecutions, sufferings and killings!)
- ✘ An **insight to the daily life of the apostolic Church**, and the sources of her power and growth.



# VIDEO SUMMARY!

- × <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJIHgMR7LP0>



# THE MISSIONS



- ✘ The Holy Spirit is the **leader** and the **guide**. He decided the servants and the places to go (Acts 13:4 ; 16:6 ,7 )
- ✘ They started to preach first to the **Jews** at synagogues. When they were rejected ,then they went to the **Gentiles** (Acts 13:14 –16 ; 46 )
- ✘ They reported back to the headquarter at **Antioch** after each mission (Acts 14:26-28 , 18:22 ).
- ✘ The good news of the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles and establishment of new churches caused a lot of Joy to the whole Church.
- ✘ The **Holy Spirit** supported them with marvellous miracles , wonders and all the gifts that were needed to **witness the Lord Jesus Christ**.

# SAINT PAUL

- ✘ Saint Paul represents a unique personality among the apostles
  - + his **conversion**
  - + the depth of his **knowledge** and **understanding** of the O.T ,
  - + his **zeal** to spread the Good News to everyone Jews and Gentiles
  - + his continuous **battle** with the false teachers and hard converted Jews who insisted on Judaism (circumcision and other ritual Jewish traditions ..... ) as a gate to Christianity
  - + his **teaching** about Christ and his **fourteen epistles** which he wrote
  - + his **long sufferings** for Christ and His Church ,
  - + his **fervent life** which was empowered and inflamed by the Holy Spirit
  
- ✘ All this gave him a very special place in the Church!



# ACTIVITY



- ✘ Divide yourselves into 2 groups
  - ✘ Group 1: Epistles 1-7 with a Sunday School Servant
  - ✘ Group 2: Epistles 8-14 with a Sunday School Servant
  - ✘ Groups are to present their tables to the class
- (Take turns reading the information of an epistle each.)

	<b>The Epistle</b>	<b>To whom it was sent</b>	<b>Problems need to be solved</b>	<b>The theme of the epistle</b>
1	<b>Romans</b>			
2	<b>1<sup>st</sup>. Corinthians</b>			
3	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>. Corinthians</b>			
4	<b>Galatians</b>			
5	<b>Ephesians</b>			
6	<b>Philippians</b>			
7	<b>Colossians</b>			

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8	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians</b>			
9	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>. Thessalonians</b>			
10	<b>1<sup>st</sup>. Timothy</b>			
11	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>. Timothy</b>			
12	<b>Titus</b>			
13	<b>Philemon</b>			
14	<b>Hebrews</b>			

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1	<b>Romans</b>	Paul did not visit the Church in Rome yet. But he sent this epistle to prepare them to the faith he preach.	Christian from Jewish origin felt that they are better than the others from Gentile origin and vise versa	God's RIGHEOUSNESS revealed in CHRIST for our SALVATION
2	<b>1<sup>st</sup>. Corinthians</b>	To the Church in Corinth which St. Paul established in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Mission.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Church disunity</li> <li>2. Moral failure</li> <li>3. Dealing with Pagan religion</li> <li>4. Wrong teaching about Spiritual gifts , Eucharist and resurrection of the bodies</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Application of Christian principles to the problems occurring in Corinth</li> <li>2. Establish the theology of : + Spiritual gifts + Eucharist + Resurrection of the bodies</li> </ol>
3	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>. Corinthians</b>	„ „ „ „	1. Some attacked the Apostleship of St. Paul , and his equality to the other Apostles.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconciliation to the Corinthian church .</li> <li>2. St. Paul defense of his apostolic credentials and authority.</li> </ol>
4	<b>Galatians</b>	To the Churches in the province of Galatia.	The Galatians churches were taken over by Jewish teaching of returning back to the law of Moses for salvation.	The true gospel vs. the false gospel . [Sufficiency of the true faith in Christ for salvation.]
5	<b>Ephesians</b>	To the Church of Ephesus		.The riches of Christ in the Church. [The Church is the Body of Christ. This Body is the center and life of all.]
6	<b>Philippians</b>	To the Church of Philippe		The dynamic of our life in Christ [JOY ]
7	<b>Colossians</b>	To the Church of Colossi. Colossi was a minor city near Ephesus.	<p>Heresy which was a blend of Jewish and Oriental ideas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christ is not unique.</li> <li>2. Angels was super than Christ</li> <li>3. Sin resulted from lack of knowledge</li> <li>4. Salvation can be gained through ritual and ascetic practices</li> </ol>	Living by the will of God vs. dying by false human schemes. [Preeminence of Christ in all things.]

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8	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians</b>	To the Church in Thessalonica .		A holy life leads to eternal life. [Jesus next coming]
9	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>. Thessalonians</b>	” ” ” ”	False speculations about the next coming of the Lord.	Stand fast through Apostolic teaching [Understand the day of the Lord]
10	<b>1<sup>st</sup>. Timothy</b>	St. Timothy ,the beloved son of St. Paul and the Bishop of Ephesus		Pastoral care of the faithful
11	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>. Timothy</b>	” ” ” ”		Overcoming hardship in the ministry
12	<b>Titus</b>	Titus was a gentile converted by St. Paul. Appointed by St. Paul to be the Bishop of Crete.		Overseeing the Church according to the true faith.
13	<b>Philemon</b>	Philemon had been converted by St. Paul, and was a member of the Church in Colossi	Onesimus was a slave of Philemon , stole from his master and run away. He was then captured . Somehow, reached St. Paul and was converted to Christ. St. Paul returned him back to his master with this letter.	Our brotherhood in Christ
14	<b>Hebrews</b>	The Greek speaking Jewish Christian mainly in Palestine .	As Jewish Christians were dismissed from the Temple , they started to feel the sense of loss of the Jewish customs and traditions. They started to have a low view of Christ and Christianity	The superiority of Christ