


Spirit-led



The Spirit is the lifeblood of the Church, the vivifying force that makes its very existence possible. Without the Spirit the Church is either an empty lifeless shell or a horrific monstrosity animated by some other spirit than the Spirit of the risen Jesus.

-Philip Kenneson



Normative Practices

inspired principles that are contextualized for all generations to follow.

Luke 1:1-4

*Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write **an orderly account for you**, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

Luke 24:46-49

“This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Phase 1 – Jerusalem - Acts 1-6:7



Acts 6:7

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.



Phase 2 - Judea and Samaria (Acts 6:8 - 9:31)

Acts 9:31

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.



Phase 3 – Gentile Pentecost (Acts 9:32 - 12:24)



Acts 12: 24

*But the word of God continued to
spread and flourish.*



Phase 4: Church Worldwide (1) (Acts 12:25 - 16:5)



Acts 16: 5

*So the churches were strengthened in the
faith and grew daily in numbers.*



**Phase 5: Church Worldwide
(2 – Europe) Acts 16:6 - 19:20**



Acts 19: 20

In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.




**Phase 6: Church Worldwide
(3- Rome) Acts 19:21 - 28:31**

Acts 28:31

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

As you read, notice the brief summary statements in 6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5 and 19:20. In each case the narrative seems to pause for a moment before it takes off in a new direction of some kind. On the basis of this clue, Acts can be seen to be composed of six sections, panels, which give the narrative a continually forward movement from its Jewish setting based in Jerusalem with Peter as its leading figure toward a predominantly Gentile church, with Paul the leading figure, and with Rome capital of the Gentile world, as the goal.

-Gordon Fee



The key to understanding Acts seems to be in Luke's interest in this movement orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, of the gospel from its Jerusalem-based, Judaism-orientated beginnings to it's becoming a worldwide, Gentile-predominant phenomenon.'
-Gordon Fee



akolutus ‘unhindered’ or ‘without hinderance’



**Acts tells the story of 'cycle one' of the Great
Commission...**

Over to you...



Acts does not conclude with the completion of the mission but offers a model and a theological framework for its continuance and completion.



How does Frontline Church locate its story in the Big Story of the Unfolding of the Great Commission?




The Church


'a prayerful family on mission surrendered to the Holy Spirit.'



The pre-eminence of the Holy Spirit in the life of The Early Church



And Jesus had been living for about thirty years before the kingdom could be said to be present in Him. It was only the unique coming of the Spirit on the unique man Jesus which brought the Kingdom among men—just as after Pentecost it was only the coming of the Spirit of Jesus upon men which made them sons and heirs....



In the period of Jesus the Kingdom was still future because only at Pentecost would other men be baptized in the Spirit into the Kingdom; only then would they enter the new age of the Spirit and begin to experience that tension between Spirit and flesh, present and future, part and whole, fulfillment and consummation about which Paul speaks so much and to which Jesus Himself was no stranger.
-James Dunn.



Romans 10:39 MSG

The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.




The only thing that is better than God in the flesh
is God in ALL flesh



“**centripetal**” (moving toward a centre)

“**centrifugal**” (moving away from a centre)




Each term implies energy and activity, a dynamic rather than a static reality, while the two terms together imply a single centre from which, and to which, this activity and energy flow. The continuous back and forth, the in and out, of this dynamic relationship, it seems to me, is the nature of the church.


-Michael Gorman



Centrifugal



Pope Francis, said that *“each new day in the life of our families, and each new generation, brings the promise of a new Pentecost, a domestic Pentecost, a fresh outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, whom Jesus sends as our Advocate, our Consoler and indeed our Encourager.*



The deepest reality of life in the Spirit depicted in the book of Acts is that the disciples of Jesus rarely, if ever, go where they want to go or to whom they would want to go. Indeed the Spirit seems to always be pressing the disciples to go to those to whom they would in fact strongly prefer never to share space, or a meal, and definitely not life together. Yet is precisely this prodding to be boundary-crossing and border-transgressing that marks the presence of the Spirit of God.'

-Willie Jennings.



Centripetal



'God speaks people'
-Willie James Jennings



The church is the koinonia of the Holy Spirit.




*'Luke is laying out the cartographic vision of Jesus where witnesses will spread from Jerusalem through all Judea into Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **But He is also slowly exposing what that spreading will mean.**'*

-Willie Jennings




The true reception of the Spirit must involve ethnic reconciliation and unity among Christ's followers.

-Craig Keener



The Holy Spirit is the agent of the Kingdom of God. That Kingdom is present, often hidden, in the church. The Holy Spirit is the way that God keeps actively loving us in time, the way that the Trinity keeps showing up to us, keeps pointing us toward the truth embodied in the Crucified. By God's love, we live in the Age of the Spirit, that new time in which the church exists and testifies to the world that our time is not our own.



God has taken time for us and the sign of that divine intrusion is the Holy Spirit at work in the church that lives and works in the world. God through the Spirit draws us into the life of the Trinity making possible a people who would otherwise not exist. The Spirit must have a body on which the Spirit can rest. That body turns out to be called “church.”

-Willimon and Hauerwas