

The Book of
ACTS

DEFENDING THE WORK OF GOD!

(Acts 11:1-18)

Outline of the Book of Acts (Timeline):

<https://mansfieldgac.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/timeline-of-the-book-of-acts.pdf>

30 AD. (Acts 1): Jesus Christ crucified, buried, & Risen! Appears to more than 500, instructs the disciples, and ascends to heaven.

(Acts 2): The Holy Spirit comes & 3000 people are saved!

31 AD. (Acts 3-4): The lame man healed at the temple gate; the church in Jerusalem grows to 8000; Peter & John testify of Jesus before the Jewish Sanhedrin.

32 AD. (Acts 5): Ananias & Saphira judged by God; many people healed and demons cast out; the Apostles imprisoned again and miraculously set free.

33 AD. (Acts 6-7): First deacons chosen in the church to deal with a problem; many Jewish priests are saved; Stephen's ministry leads to his martyrdom.

34 AD. (Acts 8): Persecution breaks out against the church in Jerusalem lead by Saul of Tarsus; the church is scattered but goes preaching the word; Philip the Deacon takes the Gospel to Samaria and many are saved.

35-37 AD. (Acts 9): Saul (Paul) meets Jesus on the road to Damascus and surrenders in salvation! He begins to spread the Gospel.

37-40 AD. (Acts 9:32—10:48): Peter ministers in Lydda and Joppa. Cornelius, the first fully Gentile convert saved in Caesarea!

I. HOW DO YOU KNOW IF GOD IS IN IT?

A. THE ISSUE:

1. There was a report that made its way back to Jerusalem that the Gentiles had **received** the word of God. (To receive = to take it, to believe it, and to trust the promises that are given there.)
2. See Romans 10:17

3. Some in the Jerusalem church (a strict Jewish sect known as “the circumcision”) questioned this whole event because Peter had broken the rules, gone outside the box and ate with these Gentiles.

B. THE EVIDENCE OF _____ TESTIMONY: (Acts 11:1-14)

1. Both Peter & Cornelius were hearing from God. They have testimony of the Lord speaking to them.
2. They were both obedient to what the Lord had told to them.
3. There was evidence of growth in their lives: Peter was stretch in his faith while Cornelius heard and believed the Gospel.

C. THE VISIBLE WITNESS, WORK, & _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

1. As Peter shared with this house full of people, the Holy Spirit fell on them...resulting in...
 - a) Conviction of sin
 - b) Trusting in the word spoken
 - c) Praising and Magnifying God.
 - d) Evidence of tongue speaking
2. There was joy & peace and God's love being experienced.
3. In short, God showed up! There was overwhelming evidence of His presence. (This is similar to the Dedication of the Temple in 1 Kings 8.)
4. **1 Corinthians 2:12, 14**—“*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God...But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*”