A Portrait of the Church from Three Angles November 1, 2026 Pastor Kevin S Lucas
Acts 5:12-16
Grace and Truth Bible Church

Luke gives us a portrait of the church from _____ angles. From above, we see the _____ God supplied through His Apostles. From within, we see believers gathered in _____ and continuing their public witness. From without, we see the responses of those around them: reluctance, _____, new faith, and crowds bringing the afflicted for healing. Each angle helps us understand the passage.

I. The Angle from _____ — Supernatural Power — Acts 5:12a
II. The Angle from _____ — Unity and Fearlessness — Acts 5:12b
III. The Angle from _____ — Separation and Success — Acts 5:13–16

I. The Angle from Above – Supernatural _____ v.12a “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people...”

Notice the careful language Luke the physician uses here. “Through the hands of the apostles” — dia tōn cheirōn tōn apostolōn (Διὰ δὲ τῶν χειρῶν)— identifies the apostles as _____.
God was performing these _____ through His appointed servants. They could _____ manufacture divine power through technique or religious theater. They _____ upon the Lord Who worked through them.
The two words Luke pairs together — "_____ and _____" (sēmeia kai terata, σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα) — are an Old Testament-rooted combination that carries enormous theological weight. You will find this pairing in Deuteronomy 6:22 where _____ rehearses for Israel the great acts God performed in Egypt.
You will find it in _____ 135:9, where the psalmist celebrates the God "who sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt." And you will find it in _____ 32:20–21, where the prophet recalls how God "set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt…and brought Your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders."
When Luke uses sēmeia kai terata, he is placing the apostolic miracles squarely in the stream of redemptive _____ — these are acts of the _____ God who delivered Israel from bondage. This not a different God. The same God who delivered _____ is now calling out a people to be His _____.

- Signs point to the _____ behind the miracle.
- Wonders point to the _____ the miracle produces.

These signs belonged to the _____ period of the church and _____ the Apostolic message. Ephesians 2:20 describes the church as built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone. This unique foundation should not be confused with the _____ pattern of every believer’s ministry today. This does _____ mean God has ceased to act. He has not. He heals according to

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Key Verses: Acts 5:12-16; 2:42-47;4:32-37; Deuteronomy 6:22; Jeremiah 32:20-21; Acts 6:8; 8:6-7; Ephesians 2:20; John 17:21; 2 Corinthians 2:15-16; John 3:16

His will, sovereignly intervenes, and answers _____. But the foundational sign gifts, including the gift of healing, have served their purpose and are no longer in operation.

The same _____ who indwelt the early believers indwells _____ believer now and supplies the power for acceptable _____, spiritual _____, and _____.

II. The Angle from Within – _____ and Fearlessness v.12b "And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch."

The word Luke uses for “one _____” is an old friend which I have pointed out is one of Luke’s favorite words for unity, homothymadon (ὁμοθυμαδόν). Remember, it means “together” or “with a common purpose.” It occurs in Acts 1:14, 2:46, and 4:24, and in Acts 2:1 in the New King James Version. It describes people _____ together.

_____ believer possesses the Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence from _____; growing unity and obedience are expressions of dependence upon _____, not conditions for receiving Him.

Now Luke describes the believers _____ there together. Their fellowship and witness remained _____ in the very place where _____ to their message could arise.

Their presence shows that the _____ of Acts 4 had not silenced their _____. Yet the church, formed at Pentecost, was a _____ body united to Christ; its use of the temple precincts did not make it a continuation or _____ of Israel.

_____ fearlessness here does not mean that the believers experienced no _____. Acts 5:11 has just described great fear before God. But their continued public gathering shows that _____ and reverence for Him did not silence their witness to the lost. They had _____ for boldness in Acts 4:29–31. Their courage _____ upon the Lord, and their unity expressed their shared life in Christ.

Unity grows as we _____ to the truth of God’s Word, pray together, share the _____, and serve one another in love. Human nature tempts us to _____ sin to preserve fellowship. The Scripture teaches that we need honesty before God and dependence upon the Spirit who already indwells every believer. A united church can speak of _____ with courage while treating His holiness with reverence. This is the angle from within.

III. The Angle from Without – _____ and Success v.v.13-16 “Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the

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Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed." (Acts 5:13–16, NKJV)

Some people, seeing only the _____ of this group, hesitated to associate with the believers, yet the public at large held them in _____ regard. At the same time, multitudes _____, and people brought the sick from Jerusalem and the surrounding towns.

There is a lesson here for the church in every age: _____ to God cannot be measured simply by _____. People may respect a congregation while remaining reluctant to associate with it. Our responsibility is to explain the _____ clearly and live truthfully before Him, trusting _____ with the response.

We proclaim the same _____ to all, praying that those who hear will _____ in Him.

A church must _____ all people to hear the truth while speaking _____ and plainly about the God it worships.

Luke's emphasis is clear enough without those claims: the Lord continued to _____ people to faith even after the sobering _____ within the church.

The central question is not whether people _____ our church, but whether they have believed in the Savior we _____ in the Gospel.



The concentric expansion had begun — from the _____ to the streets of Jerusalem, from Jerusalem to the surrounding cities of _____, and soon, as the book of Acts will show, from Judea to _____ and to the uttermost parts of the earth. The hub-and-spoke dynamic that will define the rest of Acts is already visible here: Jerusalem as the epicenter, the surrounding towns as the first ring of influence, and the _____ waiting beyond.

Conclusion: The _____ Portrait – From All Angles

When we bring the _____ angles together, we see one congregation under the care and authority of the living God. From above came the _____ that authenticated the Apostles' witness. Within the fellowship, believers _____ together in public. Outside it,

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hesitation and _____ stood alongside new faith and extraordinary healings. God's holiness was evident, and His gracious work continued after the judgment.

This passage calls the modern Church to take God's _____ seriously and to _____ upon His power.

_____ churches _____ grow numerically, or they may face _____ and persecution. Their calling remains the _____: proclaim Christ and walk in dependence upon Him.

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