

LIVING THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH
The Church Is On The Move
Acts 8-12 Selected
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The church is for all nations and ethnicities

Jesus' sacrifice provides the means of salvation and His Holy Spirit binds us into one church.

GOD IS PUSHING THE CHURCH OUT INTO THE WORLD.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8 NAS

The focus of the entire book of Acts is to be a witness of our restored relationship with God.

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14 NAS

You who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” 54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious...Acts 7:53-54a NIV

When the church is persecuted the church grows.

THE CHURCH IS MOVING OUT

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. Acts 9:31 NIV

PETER THE HEALER

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. 34 “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. 35 All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Acts 9:32-35 NIV

The result of a miracle often turns many people to the gospel.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Acts 9:40-43 NIV

What you might think of as faults God can use to reach the people He has put in your life.

JAMES AND PETER

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Acts 12:1-3 NIV

After arresting him (Peter), he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. Acts 12:4-5 NIV

5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him...16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Acts 12:5, 16 NIV

HEROD FORFEITS HIS LIFE

21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. 22 They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” 23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. Acts 12:21-23 NIV

We are saved and restored to a personal relationship with God so we can be witnesses to the love God freely gives us.

God has a plan and purpose for each one of us.

But the word of God continued to spread and flourish. Acts 12:24 NIV