

“Power, Purpose and Persecution”

Acts 1-7

Intro: The book of Acts is really the Gospel of Luke, Part 2. It is what Jesus *continued* to do, now through His disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit. They would witness to Jesus, and they would suffer for it.

I. Prelude: Prayer, Part 1 (Acts 1:14)

- a. They joined together constantly in prayer

II. Power – with the Holy Spirit

- a. This was not the first appearance of the Holy Spirit
- b. This was a unique outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- c. The same power is in believers today

III. Interlude: Prayer, Part 2 (Acts 2:42)

- a. They devoted themselves...to prayer

IV. Purpose – witness to Jesus

- a. What’s all this power for?
- b. The book of *Acts* is primarily a book of *Words*
- c. The Greek word for “witness” is *martyr*

V. Persecution – worthy suffering

- a. Jesus said this would happen
- b. Jesus told them not to worry about what to say
- c. Jesus said they would be blessed through suffering

VI. Postlude: Prayer, Part 3 (Acts 6:4)

- a. We...will give our attention to prayer

Close: In Acts 6 and 7 we read a stunning account of a man named Stephen. Stephen was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, he witnessed to Jesus, and he was killed for it—while praying.