

F. The Propagation of the Local Assembly

1. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in _____ and in all _____ and in _____ and unto the _____ part of the _____.
2. God began the church in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
 - a. The Foundation has been laid, 1 Corinthians 3:11
 - b. The believers believe, placing themselves upon the foundation (Acts 2:41)
 - c. The believers were baptized, Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41.
 - d. The believers were taught, established on the foundation, Matt 28:19, Acts 2:42–46.
3. Persecution is used by God to burst open the seed and carry the gospel to an ever widening circle. The gospel goes into Judea and Samaria.
 - a. Believers scattered abroad, but not the apostles, Acts 8:1.
 - b. The believers went preaching, 8:4.
 - c. Philip evangelizes Samaria, 8:5-8. Peter (keys) is used to confirm this ministry to the Samaritans, 8:14,25.
 - d. The gospel goes to Ethiopia, 8:26–39.
 - e. Philip goes to Azotus and to Caesarea, 8:40.
4. Peter takes the gospel to Caesarea, to the Gentiles, Acts 10–11:18.
5. “Unto the uttermost part of the earth”—Antioch, Acts 11:19–13:2
 - a. This church was established as a result of the persecution which scattered the believers from Jerusalem.
 - b. It was confirmed by the apostles through Barnabas, Acts 11:22 and following.
 - c. Barnabas found Paul and brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, “that for a whoe _____ they _____ themselves with the church and _____ much people.” Acts 11:26.
 - d. The church is growing and glowing and thus going, Acts chapter 13.
 - e. Acts 13:1–2 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas and ... Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the _____ said, Separate me _____ and _____ for the _____ whereunto I have _____ them.
 - f. The church responds with their “Amen” to what the Spirit of God has commanded, and they separate Barnabas and Paul from the local assembly, placing them under the direct hand of God the Holy Spirit, identifying with them in prayer and service.

- g. Thus the Spirit of God begins the ministry of Church planting in co-labor with Spirit filled men, adding to their number, directing them, and establishing genuine seekers on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. The First Missionary Journey (Acts chapters 13–14)
- a. Antioch (13:3) And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they _____ them _____.
- b. Acts 13:4 So they, being sent forth by the _____, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to _____.
- i. Salamis—here they preached the Word of God in the synagogue “And they had also _____ to their minister [as their helper].” (13:5b).
- ii. Paphos—Here they met a deputy, Sergius Paulus, who “desired to hear the _____.” (13:7).
- c. Pamphylia (13:13)—John departs in Perga.
- d. Pisidia
- i. Antioch of Pisidia—Paul preaches justification by faith. The Gentiles desire to hear. Many Jews and Proselytes are saved. Unbelieving Jews stir up trouble. Gentiles believe.
- ii. Iconium (13:51–14:5)—Paul preaches in the synagogue. A great multitude of Jews and Greeks believed. Unbelieving Jews stir up Gentiles.
- e. Lycaonia—In Lystra and Derbe Paul preaches the gospel. Unbelieving Jews from Antioch and Iconium stir the people to stone Paul. Paul, left for dead, rises up miraculously.
- f. The team returns to Lystra, Iconium, Antioch, confirming, exhorting, ordaining, commending to the Lord. The team travels through Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga, and Atalia.
- g. **Acts 14:26–28.** And thence sailed to _____ from whence they had been recommended (commended) to the grace of God for the _____ which they _____ 27 And when they were come, and had _____ the church together, they rehearsed (reviewed) all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. 28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.
7. The Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36–18:22)
- a. Paul, sensitive to the Holy Spirit of God, senses a need to “visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and _____” (Acts 15:36).

- b. The team is split over John Mark (John seems to have been the nephew of Barnabas). Paul takes Silas with the recommendation of the church and goes through Syria and Cilicia “ _____ the _____ ” (Acts 15:41).
- c. In the region of Derbe, Lystra and Iconium Timothy joins the team—being “well reported of by the brethren that were at _____ and _____ ” (Acts 16:2).
- d. Acts 16:5. And so were the churches _____ in the _____, and _____ in _____ daily.
- e. The team travels throughout Phrygia and Galatia (Acts 16:6)
- f. The Holy Spirit of God, under Whose direction they move, forbids them to go into Asia and Bithynia (Acts 16:7).
- g. The team passes by Mysia down to Troas. Paul received the Macedonian call in a vision at night. The team goes with a straight course to Samothracia to Neapolis and to Philippi. Dr. Luke has apparently joined the team as we note the change from “they” to “we” (Acts 16:8–18).
- h. The team travels through Amphipolis and Appollonia to Thessalonica where Paul reasons in the synagogue, setting forth Jesus Christ crucified and risen again.
- i. In Berea many believe, but the Jews of Thessalonica stir up trouble. Paul is sent away; Silas and Timothy remain behind. (Acts 17:10–14).
- j. In Athens (17:15–34) Paul’s spirit is stirred in him. He disputes in the synagogue, in the market place, and on Mars Hill. Paul sends for Silas and Timothy.
- k. The team meets Aquila in Corinth (18:1–11). They reason in the synagogue every sabbath. Paul pressed in the spirit (and opposed by the Jews) turns to the Gentiles, and spends a year and a half “ _____ the Word of God among them” (Acts 18:11).
- l. The team advances to Syria taking with them Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:18).
- m. They arrive in Ephesus but consent not to stay long—“but I will return again unto you, _____ ” (Acts 18:21). Paul stayed three years on his third missionary journey.
- n. They went from Ephesus to Caesarea to Antioch where he spent “some time.”

8. Third Missionary Journey (**Acts 18:23–21:14**).
 - a. Disciples were strengthened (18:23).
 - b. Aquila and Priscilla disciple Apollos (18:26).
 - c. Paul this time goes into Asia (20:4).
 - d. The team expands—Sopater (of Berea), Aristarchus and Secundus (of Thessalonica), Gaius (of Derbe), Tychicus and Trophimus (of Asia), Timothy, and Dr. Luke.
 - e. Paul goes to Jerusalem where his life is protected by the Roman government and he is sent on appeal to Rome. Acts 21.

9. Paul spends time in and out of prison preaching both to those within and to those without, writing letters of encouragement to the churches and to individuals exhorting and encouraging the brethren. Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon are known as the Prison epistles, written during Paul’s first Roman imprisonment. The book of 2 Timothy was written during Paul’s second Roman imprisonment, shortly before his death. 1 Timothy and Titus were written in between these two imprisonments.
 - a. **Acts 28:30–31** And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and _____ all that came in unto him, 31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and _____ those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him. [Paul’s 1st Romans imprisonment].
 - b. We, today, are the continuation of “The Acts of the Apostles By the Holy Spirit For the Outworking of God’s Continued Program, God’s Son Being Glorified.”

10. What things do we learn?
 - a. There was no mission society or church extension organization.
 - b. The local church was simply active in the exercise of the life of God through the gifting and energizing of the Holy Spirit of God—teaching, praying, fasting, seeking the mind and heart of God.
 - c. God clearly called on the church to separate or release two of their men (one from the top of the list, the other from the bottom) for His work. God called them out to His work. God sent them forth.
 - d. The local church in harmony and agreement with one another and with God’s purpose and plan said, “Amen”—praying with them and for them, identifying with them and sending them forth in obedience.
 - e. The local church did not seek to dictate to this team nor to govern their going. The church released them from under the local church ministry to under the hand of the Holy Spirit of God. (This does not say the local assembly could not withdraw their recommendation as they apparently did with Barnabas on the second missionary journey.)

- f. The local church did receive reports from the church planting team, perhaps during the journey, but at least at the end when they gathered for refreshment and for rehearsal of what God had done.
- g. The financial support of the team was the privilege of the saints to practice, their right to exercise, their duty to fulfill. It was not the right of the team to demand or expect. They were thrust out under the hand of God to lean on Him.
- h. Paul often supported the team through use of his skill (tentmaking). Gifts were occasionally and carefully received and administered.
- i. The local area did what they could to provide housing and meals, etc.
- j. The team grew as Paul traveled. Other local churches recommended and contributed men to help as able. Not all were church planters. Not all were ready for the work. Not all stayed with the work. These men encouraged and helped and exercised one another.
- k. The team would be split up for special ministries as the occasions required.
- l. It was the Holy Spirit Who moved the men to where there were seekers. They sometime had no leading and had to wait on the Lord. They were sometimes redirected.
- m. The church extension team laid the foundation, established believers on the foundation and built them up, often returning or writing to strengthen the church.
- n. The team was not bound with respect either to need or to time. They could bypass some towns. They could stay three months or three years. They were under God's hand, in God's moment.



**Ye are my
witnesses
... that
I am God**