

# Acts of the Apostles

The classes on the ACTS OF APOSTLES are over. I am glad that I attended them. I never knew that there are so many lessons that we can learn from this book. I wished I had known of the better approach of learning many years ago. I would have had a better understanding of God's Word; remembering what God had done for us through His life, death and the stories of many others who had walked and believed in Jesus. Thank you, Rev Dr John Tay.

The Book of ACTS revealed the founding of the Christian Church and the spread of God's Word throughout the Roman Empire. The story of Paul (a.k.a. Saul before He knew and believed in Christ) and his missionary journeys were plagued with the intrigue of political, human and circumstantial strife beyond comprehension.

Somehow, Paul knew the governing systems and the groups of people well (Pharisees, Sadducees, government officials, Jews, certain groups of Gentiles of various positions, etc.) on their culture, beliefs and wayward perspectives that resulted in corruption, bribery, self-interest, deception, lies and undesirable intentions. Paul went as God commanded him to preach and evangelise though he met with intense opposition and was framed for crimes that he did not commit. Nevertheless, God was with him.

He did use his gifts well and leveraged on his learnt knowledge and acquired concepts of authority to navigate through the circumstances, relying on God at all times. He suffered and was frustrated; bullied and was abused, in the various jurisdictions in his missionary journeys. He miraculously survived and managed to fulfil the work that God had set him out to do.

Also, ACTS is a book co-referencing to Luke which provided insights to show the Word of God was shared with the Gentiles because the Jews rejected it and they modified the original meaning of the message to suit their purpose.

These are the reflections and regrets that I have from the sessions and do not represent the general sentiments from you who have also attended the study on the Book of ACTS. So, please hear me out and find your own learning points on this study. The applications and realisations should be taken in the

right context. Please remember to pray and check with your Pastors if in doubt.

### Reflections & Reminders

- If Jesus has not come, we would not have been saved.
- It is important to go to God daily.
- Reverse the curse by saying good things about ourselves. Speak positively.
- Let money be our servant not our master.
- Learn to hear God as there are significant messages that we may hear from Him when we grow in the Lord Jesus.
- Just because the teachings were in stories, it does not mean that they are not part of the scriptures. The parables depict a lot of wisdom of God's Word and Work though it is just a form. We should see the teachings behind the situations.
- Be grateful in the little things that God has called you to do. We never know what the final purpose is until the end.
- Principle - Appoint people to leadership and mentor them. Spend time with them to nurture and guide them.
- Salvation is by works or by faith in Jesus Christ? Not works but by faith.
- Paying money does not mean our sins will be forgiven.
- Having a good friend helps us along the way. Have different friends and companions at various stages of our lives to help and protect us via various ways.
- Every day is a gift from God. Live a day at a time

- Value history by reading the Old Testament. Sit in the presence of the Lord and chart your growth in the Lord. History on people tells a story and it is worth reflecting.
- Acts will show us the various instances on the gifts of Spirit. For us, we are Stewards for the Lord and what we have belongs to the Lord at 100%. Be rich in the Lord.
- ACTS is an important book as it shows the journey of the past and why we believe in certain things. It is good to know the scriptures and what it means as it is very important to understand things right.
- We live in a negative world. Build people up and not tear people down. Do people hang around you because they feel positive and encouraged around you?
- If we do not want the Holy Spirit, God will not force it on us. Jesus promised us that if you are willing, no one can pluck you from the Father's hand. We will be saved and have salvation if we want it.
- Sometimes we believe in things or concepts that are not true. We need to know God's word clearly and properly.
- Paul made use of the civic law to protect himself and not suffer unnecessarily. Learn to be wise and street smart too.
- God always wins and if we don't repent, we lose forever.
- Find what God has for you in your life?
- We need to know the power of God and the power of evangelism to be effective to do God's work.
- Despite the circumstances, there are decisions to be made and we should not shrink from our responsibilities.
- If you walk with the Lord, even those around you will also be saved. Trust & obey.

- We all need friends in different seasons of our lives. The support from the Cell Group is important. We need to cultivate friendships and companions like Paul and his comrades in God.
- What is God's purpose? Gospel is to be shared with both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus is Lord of all. (Acts 10:36) All who repent and obey Him will be saved. (Acts 5:31-32)

This article presents my inner thoughts on the learning journey on ACTS. I pray that I will better understand as I go through it with the reference materials again. There is still so much more about ACTS that we can relate to and apply in our lives.

One thing for sure is that human nature begets the better of ourselves and we forget who God is. The study is a good reminder that we are not alone in this fight to know ourselves better and ultimately, return to God after we realise that it is HE whom we miss and should have faith in. I will continue the learning in my own pace with God. Please do; reflecting on God's word and not regretting that we have not done so. 😊

*Joyce Tan*