

“AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT”

The Acts of the Apostles

Who wrote The Acts of the Apostles?

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke. In his message to Theophilus in the forward, Luke identifies this chapter as the second part of a two-part book – the first part being his Gospel.

How did The Acts of the Apostles get its name and/or what does that name mean?

Although several other early Christians are noted in this book, the principle focus in The Acts of the Apostles is on Peter and Paul. This book is not so much a history as a testimony of the growth of the new Church both in and outside Palestine.

When did these events take place?

The Acts of the Apostles details the development of the new church (over a 30 year time span) from the first Pentecost until Paul's first imprisonment in about 60 A.D.

For more about The Acts of the Apostles:

See page 1169 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

There probably was a time when few people outside of the State of North Carolina knew who Jimmy Valvano was. In fact, if you didn't follow college basketball, he may have even been a stranger to anyone living outside of Charlotte. That all changed when the Wolfpack won the College Basketball National Championship over Houston in 1983. After that date, Valvano was a familiar name to fans all across the country.

But that was just the beginning for Jimmy V. It was his courageous struggle against all odds fighting cancer and his very tragic early death that really solidified his memory to Americans everywhere. His legacy of courage and hope is preserved in the foundation created in his name to support cancer research. Today people who didn't even know him are inspired by his life and death and support each other to preserve the lessons he taught. Many lives are being changed because of their belief in what he began.

Jesus' death had that kind of affect. The Apostles and early believers all knew that through Jesus they could attain everlasting life. Their challenge was to get this message out. The average person around Jerusalem probably had heard of Jesus. But what about the world outside? How would Jesus' message get to them? Had He inspired his followers enough to make that happen? When you read The Acts of the Apostles, you will realize that Jesus had not only done that, but much more.

This book tells the story of how the first church (the first believers who followed Jesus) put their faith into action to reach out and change the world. But, unlike organizations like the Jimmy V. Foundation, their work wasn't just about teaching or just about speaking out in someone's memory. Their mission was about spreading the one message that could mean eternal salvation to anyone who accepted it. The tools God gave them to do so were miraculous. In The Acts of the Apostles you'll read how the Apostles were given the gift of speaking in tongues and about miracles of healing and forgiveness. And, like any new organization, you'll read about the obstacles they had to overcome. Most of all, The Acts of the Apostles is about how strong faith can make you in the face of any challenge and how the new Church led by Saint Peter relied on that faith to build a community of believers – the church – throughout the world.

Interesting Fact: Paul's refusal to insist that Gentiles did not have to believe in the Law of Moses before converting to Christianity did not go over well with the established Jewish Church of his day.

Bonus Point: Before he became a preacher and evangelist, what was Paul's profession?