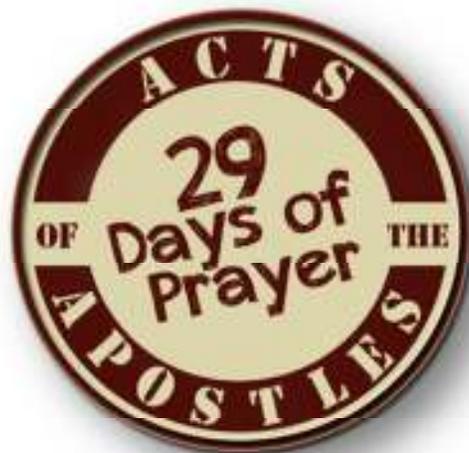


Praying through the...



Praying Through the Book of Acts

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The Book of Acts is a bridge between Christ's life and the early church. It records the church's birth and the spread of the Gospel, a movement that continues to this day. By praying through the Book of Acts, we connect with a foundation God laid nearly 2,000 years ago. Each day of this Prayer Guide corresponds with a successive chapter in the Book of Acts—28 chapters in all. May God bless us as we step into the stream of God's movement, and as we pray for our local church and Christ's church around the world.

Ch.1. The Christian movement could not begin without the Resurrected Christ. The disciples were disillusioned and feared for their lives after Jesus' death, but will soon become fearless and risk everything to tell the world about their Risen Savior.

As you pray today, offer God thanks for sending His only Son to pay the debt of our sin with His death, and to defeat death with His resurrection. (Key Passage, vs.7-11.)

Ch.2. The epicenter for the advancement of the Gospel was in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came upon the Disciples at Pentecost. Visitors at the Festival are amazed as the Disciples, inspired by the Holy Spirit, spontaneously declare the wonders of God in the native languages of surrounding nations. Peter, who had recently denied Jesus, addresses the crowd with boldness and passion.

Pray today for an infusion of the power of God's Spirit in your life. (Key Passage, vs.1-4.)

Ch.3. This chapter finds Peter, in Jesus' Name and power, performing the miraculous healing of a crippled beggar. The onlookers recognize this physically challenged man, and are astonished as they watch him jump for joy in the temple courts. Peter again capitalizes upon the moment and explains that God's mercy and grace is available for all.

Pray today for courage like Peter to recognize opportunities to speak up for Christ. (Key Passage, vs.4-10.)

Ch.4. Chapter four documents the incredible start and momentum the early church experienced. Peter and John give powerful testimony before the Jewish council, and the number of disciples grows to over 5,000. The tremendous spiritual unity and generosity among Christ's followers is alluring to onlookers.

As you pray today, thank God for faithful believers who have gone before us, and for those of us who now hold the baton. (Key Passage, vs.31-35.)

Ch.5. Unity and generosity among the disciples becomes tainted as sin is revealed within the church. In addition, persecution towards believers is beginning to heat up.

In prayer today, confess sin and ask for God's forgiveness. And pray that Christ's church would sharpen its focus on spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Key Passage, vs.41-42.)

Ch.6. The early church discovers the need to appoint seven leaders to oversee the distribution of food to the needy. Among these leaders is Stephen, known for his faith, wisdom, grace, and power.

Pray today that our church's leaders might know God's love, grace, protection, direction and provision as they lead. (Key Passage, vs.5-7.)

Ch.7. Stephen becomes the first recorded person to die for the Christian faith (martyrdom) when he is stoned to death.

In prayer today, give God thanks for the courageous souls throughout history who suffered so we might know Christ. Pray also for believers today who risk their lives for Christ around the world. (Key Passage, vs.54-60.)

Ch.8. Philip, another of the seven deacons from chapter 6, was one of the first to preach the Gospel outside of Jerusalem. In today's reading, he preaches to crowds in Samaria. Then, following God's leading, he persuades an Ethiopian who is trying to understand the Scriptures.

Pray that God will orchestrate chance, one-on-one encounters with others, and for boldness and wisdom to respond. (Key Passage, vs.34.)

Ch.9. Saul, a Jewish Pharisee who is passionately persecuting Christ-followers, has a dramatic encounter with the risen Christ while on the Road to Damascus. We also read the story of Tabitha being raised to life by Peter.

Pray today for new life (physical, spiritual, emotional) for ourselves and others through the power of God's Spirit. (Key Passages, vs.18, 31, 40-41.)

Ch.10. The Christian movement continues as God connects Peter with a Roman soldier named Cornelius. Although the Christian faith began among Jews, it is beginning to make its way to Gentiles (non-Jews) as well.

Prayerfully thank God for His love and acceptance of all people from all backgrounds and all nations. (Key Passages, vs.34, 47-48.)



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Ch.11. Although persecuted and scattered, the early church continues to share Christ and grow. As our culture becomes more opposed to the Christian faith, we must not become discouraged from telling others about Jesus.

Pray for wisdom and boldness as we seek and find daily opportunities to share our faith. (Key Passage, vs.19-21.)

Ch.12. Peter appears to be just hours away from being executed by King Herod when he is miraculously released from prison by an angel of the Lord. He then visits a house full of disciples who are praying for him. Prayer works!

Prayerfully thank God for hearing and answering every one of our prayers. (Key Passage, vs.16-17.)

Ch.13. The remainder of the Book of Acts focuses mainly on Paul (formerly Saul) and his missionary journeys. After prayer, fasting and God's leadership, Paul travels with Barnabas and John Mark to the Island of Cyprus.

Pray for God's hand upon our church's missionaries as they boldly set out to demonstrate God's love in a hurting world. (Key Passage, vs.49-52.)

Ch.14. In Chapter 14, we see how fickle a crowd can be. First they believe Paul and Barnabas to be gods, then they nearly stone Paul to death a few days later.

Pray that we might be faithful as Christ-followers in the midst of a changing world. (Key Passage, vs.8-20.)

Ch.15. Disagreements and conflict seem to be the main theme in Chapter 15. As we seek to live in peace and unity with others we often lose sight of how God can work through challenges and difficulties if we'll let Him.

Pray for God's love, grace and patience as we address our differences. (Key Passages, vs.9-11, 36-41.)

Ch.16. Today we meet a young man named Timothy as he joins Paul and Silas on their mission. Timothy is the first, second-generation Christian mentioned in the New Testament.

Pray for the young Christians in your life, and for their consistent witness for Christ. (Key Passage, vs.1-5.)

Ch.17. Paul stops in Athens, studies his audience's culture, then begins to reason with the Greek philosophers about the One True God.

Pray for a better understanding of today's culture, and how we might more effectively share what God has done in our lives. (Key Passages, 22-34.)

Ch.18. Home churches played a vital role in the early Christian movement. Today we meet Aquila and Priscilla, who provided their home for shelter and education for missionaries like Paul and Apollos.

Prayerfully ask God that our homes would be an environment for sharing Christ with family, friends and neighbors. (Key Passages, 1-3.)

Ch.19. Vs. 11 says, "God did extraordinary miracles through Paul." However, Paul often had to dismiss himself because people became livid after hearing his message.

Pray today that God will soften peoples' hearts to hear the Gospel. Pray for the boldness to speak God's truth in love, and for wisdom to know peoples' limits. (Key Passage, 8-10.)

Ch.20. As we head for the final stretch in the Book of Acts, we find Paul's sense of urgency growing. He is more concerned about completing God's mission than he is for his own life.

Pray for a passion for God that trumps our own interests. (Key Passage, vs.24.)

Ch.21. Paul returns to Jerusalem despite the hardships he knows he will face. Paul had an amazing resolve to seek God's honor, even in difficult circumstances.

Pray today that you reflect Christ in every situation. (Key Passage, vs.12-14.)

Ch.22. Paul is an example of a transformed life. Today he confronts an angry crowd that he would have gladly participated in just a few years earlier.

Prayerfully thank God for His ongoing work of transforming your life. (Key Passage, vs.1-21.)

Ch.23. Vs.16 is the only Biblical reference to Paul's family. Some scholars believe they disowned him when he became a Christian, another example of Paul suffering loss for the sake of the Gospel.

Pray for God's grace as you suffer loss as a result of your faith. (Key Passages, vs.11, 16.)

Ch.24. Today's reading documents Paul's trial before the Roman governor of Judea. In the last verse we learn that Paul was imprisoned for two years while this process played out. Surely Paul had to wonder how God was using him while locked away for such a long time.

Pray today for patience as God's will plays out in your life. (Key Passage, vs.27.)

Ch.25. When have you been frustrated by your circumstances and wondered how God could use your situation to advance His Kingdom? Perhaps Paul feels this way as the events of Chapter 25 unfold.

Pray for God's strength to remain faithful, even when faced with failure or frustrating circumstances. (Key Passage, vs.10-11.)

Ch.26. Paul finally gets an opportunity to defend himself before high ranking Roman officials. But, instead of making it a defense for his release, Paul proclaims and defends the Gospel.

Pray for a desire to see others come to Christ that overshadows your problems. (Key Passage, vs.28-29)

Ch.27. Add surviving a shipwreck to Paul's long list of harrowing experiences as a missionary. Although Paul was a prisoner at the time, he assured the crew that they would survive the pending shipwreck if they followed God's guidance.

Pray for God's strength to be faithful during the storms of life. Pray for faith to believe God is always in control. (Key Passage, vs.21-26.)

Ch.28. Paul finally reaches Rome, the center of trade and government in the Western world in his day. From there, others would carry the Gospel around the world. In the Book of Acts, the church is born when the Holy Spirit fills the disciples. As the Gospel spread, God used dramatic conversions, courageous missionaries and miraculous healings. The Christian movement overcame angry crowds, shipwrecks and martyrdom, as it traversed twenty centuries to our day.

Pray today that we would be faithful in carrying the transformational message of Jesus Christ to the next generation. (Key Passage, vs.30-31.)

Ch.29. Okay, so your bible doesn't contain a 29th chapter in the Book of Acts. Perhaps it's because the Book of Acts is still a work in progress, and we are a part of God's continuing work.

As you end your 29 Days of Prayer through the Book of Acts, ask God to reveal your role in Christ's ongoing movement.