



PASSIONFORTRUTH

WHERE NEW LIFE BEGINS

TRANSCRIPT

Understanding the Book of Acts

From the Original Hebrew Perspective - Acts 3-5

by Jim Staley 2024

Hello, everyone, Jim Staley, [Passion for Truth Ministries](#). Welcome to today's broadcast. Today we're going to be continuing in the Book of Acts, we're going to uncork all of it. We're going to continue as we move through chapter three, four, and maybe five, we'll see how far we get. We want to know exactly what the foundation of the early disciples were. And I'm telling you, it's in stark contrast to traditional Christianity and their interpretation. We've got this wrong. I'm telling you, it all goes back to the foundation found in the Book of Acts. How did the disciples live their lives after the resurrection of Christ? We'll find out more about that right after this.

All right, we are back. Jim Staley here again, Passion for Truth Ministries. Before we get started, I want to remind you guys, Sukkot 2024, the [Passion for Tabernacles](#) event is going to be here before you know it. If you are not signed up, you need to be! There will be hundreds of people there in southern Missouri, we will be celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. That's the seventh feast on God's calendar it's all about the prophetic of the Second Coming of Christ, it's connected to the marriage supper of the Lamb, there'll be worship, incredible speakers, bonfires, amazing things for the kids - 150 - 200 youth will be there. It's going to be amazing. Please go check it out at [passionfortabernacles.com](#). There's already over 300 people signed up. We are well over half of what we are going to be, almost half I should say, of where we're going to be on our capacity. So, please do that as soon as possible. You can even make payments, just email [payments@passionfortruth.com](#). And someone will get back with you and you can make payments and make sure you get registered. It's going to be a life changing experience.

Okay, well, let's get started. We are in the Book of Acts. I want to set the stage for the next few chapters. Last week, we talked about chapters 1 and 2. This context, the Book of Acts goes over from AD 30, around the time at right after the resurrection, for the next 30 to 35 years. So, AD 60, 65, that's what the Book of Acts covers. This sets this *whole* foundation of the Book of Acts. The early church is founded upon the fact that the Jewish disciples were just that - they were Jewish. And when Christ rose from the dead, showed Himself to over 500 people, He told them wait in Jerusalem, until the power from on High shows up, they knew exactly what He was talking about. They knew where to go, they went right back to the same place where they had

Passover, 50 days earlier, and they waited till the Feast of Shavuot, in the Hebrew tongue. In the Greek, you might be familiar with it more as Pentecost. But in the Hebrew tongue, it was Shavuot, it was the fourth feast day of the seven, it's the last of the spring feast days of the Lord that had to deal with the first coming of Christ or all prophetic dealing with the first and second coming of Christ. If you're not familiar with the feast days of the Lord, I encourage you to text the word "**feast day**" to **844-763-9543**, and I will immediately text you back. You will receive a free PDF download of all of the feast days of the Lord giving you an overview of them. We also have a full-fledged teaching on this, kind of an overview of [the Feast Days of the Lord](#), that you can click the link there at the top of your screen or in the description. That'll give you an overview if you're unfamiliar with them.

But for those of you here, we are now in the Book of Acts moving towards chapter 3. And we promised at the very end here of chapter 2, where I ran out of time last week in the broadcast. I want to talk about this phrase **afar off**. Let me read this to you. I want to show you this again. So, you're familiar with it, it says "**for the promise**". Peter is talking to all of these Jewish people, there's no Gentiles involved here and Acts chapter 2, the whole Holy Spirit falling down, speaking of tongues, and people being saved by the thousands. Three thousand in fact, and we connected that to the 3000 people that died in the wilderness at the golden calf experience, incredible redo. Boy, I can tell you what, right now there's a lot of times in my life I need to redo. This is what this whole Book of Acts is all about, it's a redo for the children of Israel. I think it's really important that we stay inside the context here and not read into this a 21st century Western theology. There are no Gentiles at this point in the Book of Acts. In the early church. It's 100% Jewish, and this is a phrase, it's really key. If you don't know much about the Torah or the front, of what I call the front of the book in the prophets, you're going to read right past this, we're not going to do that. I'm going to unpack this for you. It says, "³⁹ **For the promise is to you and to your children**, (talking about the Jewish people there, the people of Israel) **and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.**"

Now, what we're going to focus on here for the next few minutes is I want to teach you what he's talking about, those who are **far off**. This is not language that he is just coming up with on his own. He's not saying "oh, those that are in Japan", you know, "those that are in America, the Aztec Indians at this point, whatever." No, he's saying something that is very specific, Biblical, theological language, that if you don't know what that phrase is, if you're not familiar with the Torah, or the prophets, I should say more specifically, you just read right past this. It's critical. So, let's go back and find out what this phrase *actually* means. In order to do that, we pull up the PowerPoint, we're going to go to Isaiah chapter 57, verse 19, and it says this, "¹⁹ **'I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,' Says the Lord, 'And I will heal him.'**" Now, that is a really, really important scripture, because that same exact scripture is found in the New Testament. We'll get there in just a moment. But in the meantime, I want to show you that this phrase, "to him who is far off, to him who is near", this is a Biblical term. What it's specifically talking about is it's talking about the *two kingdoms of Israel*. That was the kingdom of Israel that was split into two kingdoms under King Solomon, the third king of Israel. It was Saul than David and then Solomon. Then it was split into 10 tribes in the North

which were called the House of Israel. The two tribes in the south are called the House of Judah.

The House of Israel went into captivity in 722 BCE, into Assyria, and then they got scattered into all four corners of the then known world, they literally assimilated into all the Gentile nations and lost their tribal identity over time. The southern kingdom, as you well know, for those of you that are Bible students, they went into captivity and 586 BC, where? To Babylon. They were there for seven years under Nehemiah, God brought them back. The key phrase here when he says **far off**. He's specifically talking about the *northern* house of Israel that was scattered *far off*. The *southern* kingdom of Judah was *near* because they came back under Nehemiah, Ezra, back to Jerusalem. That's the only reason why we have Jewish people today is because the House of Judah, who was first called Jews in Babylon during that captivity, they came back to Jerusalem. If they don't come back under Nehemiah, ladies and gentlemen, there's no Israel, there's no Jewish people, not a single person on earth would have any kind of tribal identity to Israel. It would be completely lost, we'd have no Torah, we'd have no Isaiah scroll, and the Dead Sea Scrolls would likely have never been found. No one would be digging in Israel because Israel wouldn't exist. That's how critical that migration back from Babylon was. The northern 10 tribes, over the last 2000 years, have completely lost their identity. We have no idea who's from the tribe of Dan, Naftali, Asher, so on and so forth. But the critical thing for this moment of understanding the Book of Acts, and their mindset is when he says, "hey, the promise is to you and your children, and all who are *far off*." He's specifically saying, "Look, you and your children are in Jerusalem, you're the house of Judah. But the promise is also for those that are far off, those that are not of Jewish descent of the House of Judah, but it might be from the northern 10 tribes."

We see it again, here, in Ezekiel, check this out. It's even more specific. Chapter 11:14 through 16, read it with me. It says, **"¹⁴ Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ¹⁵ 'Son of man, your brethren, your relatives, your countrymen, and all the house of Israel in its entirety, are those about whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Get far away from the Lord; this land has been given to us as a possession.'"** Right here, guys, do you see this? There's a designation difference between the House of Israel and the House of Judah. Those in Jerusalem, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, are from the House of Judah. And they're saying, *get out of here. You're not part of this. You're not supposed to be here. You go away.* Okay. And in verse 16 **"¹⁶ Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Although I have cast them"',** who's *them*? The house of Israel, the northern tribes, **"*far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.*"** And He goes on to say how He's going to bring them back. Okay, those who are *far off*, are going to come back. So, the *far off* are those of the Northern 10 tribes that are scattered among the Gentiles.

I'm spending a little bit of time on this because it's important for you to recognize the mindset of the author here, Luke, and of course, Peter as he's preaching so that you can understand where he's coming from. Now let's move over to Ephesians, the famous passage out of Ephesians.

And we're going to tie all of this together, so that you can really, really get a good foundation under you, of the mindset of the apostle Peter and these disciples, as they're going through Acts. Let's go to **Ephesians chapter 2:11 through 18**, read it with me. ***"11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—"*** And by the way, that phrase, their *circumcision* is just another word for Jews. And *uncircumcision* was a word commonly used for the Gentiles, ***"12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. "***

Alright, so right there he's saying you have no access to Israel. So, having access to the commonwealth of Israel is a good thing. In the eyes of the author here in the Book of Ephesians. Paul is saying, "Look, this is important, you had no access to be part of Israel. But *now* in Christ Jesus, you" verse 13, ***"13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."*** This is really, really important, because there's two sets of Gentiles in the first century, there are the pagan Gentiles who have no Israelite blood, no Israelite background whatsoever. That would be like the Greeks, the true Greeks, Romans, and all of those that were never a part of Israel. Then there are those that became as Gentiles, the northern 10 tribes of Israel, they got scattered. And it says in the prophets, "who became like Gentiles", they lost their identity as Israel because the northern kingdom was divorced. If you want more information on that, I encourage you to watch "[Identity Crisis](#)", it will absolutely change your life in that regard.

But as it regards to what we're talking about right now, in Ephesians, he's saying "those of you are once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ", though the northern 10 tribes were far off. So, he's not talking about pagan Gentiles here, he's talking about Israel, which is what is in the mind of these disciples, they're living in a time where there's no Gentiles as part of the church yet, it's not in their mind that Gentiles can even be saved. That debate is going to happen a few chapters later, here in Acts.

Let's continue into verse 14, ***"14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,"***. *Both one*, what's he talking about? The *northern* kingdom and the *southern* kingdom, who were what? Completely at odds with one another. They had hatred towards one another, because the southern kingdom, the Jews, that were occupying a Jerusalem, knew that the northern 10 tribes were there, in a way were their enemies, that have always been. But furthermore, they were divorced and could not be part of the covenant. And they were reminding them that by not allowing them to be part of the covenant, and the only way that they could be part of the covenant was to convert to what they called Judaism. Okay? So that's why he says, ***"15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,"*** He's not talking about the Torah here. He's talking about the oral traditions of the elders. This is the commandments that are found in ordinances that are preventing the northern 10 tribes from coming into covenant with God, He abolished all of that, and the power of that. So that is to create Himself one new man from the

two, thus making peace. One new man from two what? From the two kingdoms of Israel, this is *incredible*. Everyone's been trying to figure this out for what the one new man is, for decades and decades and hundreds of years. It's as simple as just reading the front of the book. Understanding the two houses of Israel, how they fit together is absolutely incredible and groundbreaking, when you read the rest of the scriptures from the original Hebrew perspective. ¹⁶ ***and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*** ¹⁷ ***And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.*** ¹⁸ ***For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.***"

Isn't that amazing? Ladies and gentlemen, we're barely, we haven't even got to today's Acts Chapter 3 to begin, but we're setting the foundation stones for the whole book. Getting into the mind of the authors and what they understood is critical nature that the two Houses of Israel were against one another, there was enmity. The House of Judah was in control, the House of Israel had already been divorced. They were scattered amongst the other nations and the Greek nations of the time, the prophet Ezekiel prophesied that they're going to turn into Gentiles. This is why Paul, when he runs around giving the gospel, he's going to the so-called Gentiles who are really former Israelites that had been divorced from covenant, he gives them the good news and says, "Hey, you can come back into covenant." And they come by the hundreds of thousands. Why? Because they know their Israelite origin, and they come back to Christ. Of course, along with that comes a lot more Gentiles that are pagan. And thus, we have a new Exodus that's happening, because in the first Exodus, what happens? You've got mixed multitude. You got the Israelites that are coming out, and then you have real pagan Gentiles that are coming out and they join Israel, the commonwealth of Israel, and God says, "I'll have one law for the native born and for the alien, and all they have to do if they want to be My people is be circumcised and keep My commandments, keep My Passover, and there will be one law for everybody", one nation under God, if you will.

What we have done as Christians today is we've divorced ourselves from the law of God, we've divorced ourselves from the understanding that the early Jewish apostles, and disciples and early Christians had, and we've taken our Western 21st century Greco-Roman Christian mindset from all these 44,000 different denominations, and we've read into the Scriptures what we already believe, remove ourselves from the context so that we can infuse what we don't even know that we don't understand and come out with something really, that's not even close to what was really happening in the first century. So, if we want the power of the Book of Acts, **we need to go back and maybe do the things and understand the things that the writers and the apostles, the apostles and disciples, and early believers in the Book of Acts understood, and practiced.** That's what this entire study is all about. We want the power of God in Spirit and in truth to be infused in our lives. The only way we're going to do that is to find out when the power stopped.

I'm here to tell you, my friends, it's very sad, but if you travel back in time, this pipe of power, and you traveled through the desert and into the woods, at some point, you're going to find that the pipe was originally connected, and it's broken in two. And what's happening is just a few

drops are being transferred because 90% of the pipe is off center. What we want to do is go back and connect that pipe. And that pipe is called Truth, and the water is called Spirit.

Now let's go back to the Scriptures now that we kind of have an idea of what far off means that this is all about Israel, the northern two kingdoms, so far that is the context. Let's go back to the Scriptures. All right, Acts chapter 3, verse 1, let's start it off. **"¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms."** Okay, now, this is important, right in the very first verse, we have this terminology, *the hour of prayer*. So, what is this *hour of prayer* that's going on here? This ninth hour? Well, the ninth hour in Judaism, the hours in early Israel started at 6am, would be the first hour. So, the ninth hour with would be 3pm. Why? The evening sacrifice. Okay. I want to go over to Matthew chapter 27 and show you that on Passover, the critical moment where they slit the throat of the Passover lamb, just so happened to be at the ninth hour. *This is exactly when our Lord died.*

Matthew chapter 27:45 and 46 says, "⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'" And so, I just wanted to show you this - that there is a connection and a reason why Peter and John went up to the temple at the ninth hour. They're very used to this. This is the time of the evening sacrifice. There was a belief in Judaism that this was a time when the Lord was accepting of people's prayers and alms, petitions, all of the above. There is a man who's laying this right there at the gate, Peter and John see him. And he's asking for alms, and this is what they say. **"⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."**

So, he has this incredible moment where he gets healed, he's all freaked out, and then this big problem happens because he's glorifying God, he's running around the temple. And now the Sadducees find out what's going on and they pull him in, and they've got to make an answer for this. So, he makes this comment, and it goes something like this, chapter 3, verse 16, **"¹⁶ And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong,"** Because they're questioning him, "by what name and authority did you heal this man? By the by the one that you guys killed **'the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we're witnesses'**", right here in **verse 15, "His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."** It's important that you understand the reason why they're asking them and what name what authority, you're doing this, because it was always understood that you don't do anything in your own authority. There's always someone behind you. That's why names were so important in the first century. That's why there were no last names, because it was not about you, it's not Jim Staley, it will be Jim, son of James, son of

James, son of whoever. So, it was always calling upon your ancestral reputation and authority. This is why they're saying, "Look, this is not by our authority. I'm not healing anybody." It is by it is by the name that is my father that's behind me, the reputation of my rabbi is the one I am healing in, it is his authority from which we heal, not our own. That's why when we say in the name of Yeshua, in Hebrew, or in the name of Jesus, it is by that name. It is by His authority, His reputation, and He was the perfect Son of Man, Son of God, who lived a perfect life, died, rose from the dead. It's that authority that we are calling on Amen.

All right. This is a comment that I love. He says, "Look, I know, brethren, that you killed the Messiah, and you did it in ignorance, as did all your rulers." This is something that was a very, very difficult thing for the early Roman Catholic Church to really absorb was that, although they did it intentionally, it was out of ignorance. So, anti semitism started, really because they never read this verse. Because this verse gives grace, this verse is the mindset of the disciples here is they recognized out of compassion. "Yes, you killed the Messiah, but you did it out of ignorance." And then he goes on to say, in verse 18, **"But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His Prophets that the Christ would suffer, this does fulfill."** In other words, this was God's will. So, these people that denied Christ that killed him, it was the will of God, for Him to die. It had to happen this way. How often in our lives, sometimes bad things happen. And we don't ever think that maybe this really is the will of God to bring out bring about a greater glory of God, just like the man who was blind sitting at the pool of Siloam. He says, Jesus says, "Hey, look for such a time as this. It's not because he's a sinner or his parents were a sinner. He was born blind for *this* so that God can be glorified more in this moment." You see, God gets more glory in your weakness. That's why He says, "When you're weak, He is strong." So, pull on His strength when you are weak. Do not run from your weakness.

"19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing" and in verse 19, ***"may come from the presence of the Lord,"*** My friends, I just want to point out real quickly the word *converted* here. In the Greek is the same Hebrew comes from the Hebrew word, **shuv** or **teshuvah**, which is to *turn around* to go in a *different direction*, and specifically to return is what the word means. So, repent, therefore, and return. Return where? Return to the beginning, when your faith was pure and holy, and there was no compromise. And I say that the same thing today, we need to repent and return to God and put to death the deeds of the flesh, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. I don't know about you but sometimes we all need to be refreshed. And the Bible says, "The fastest way for us to get refreshed is to repent". Find something in your life that's out of alignment, and repent of that. There's not enough preachers preaching repentance, we need to go back and return to the Lord, audit our life. That's what we're doing here is auditing our theology, which helps us audit our life.

All right, let's see. Let's continue to go here. And we're just going to go concept by concept here for the sake of time. He starts giving this sermon and talking about the how the prophets have foretold of the Messiah coming. And he says in verse 26 ***"26 To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."*** I thought this was an incredible statement, I wanted to highlight this, I never really

saw that before that Christ was sent to bless people. And how does he bless them? By getting them to repent. Because He knows when you repent, times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord, and that's something that we all need more of.

"1 Now", watch this chapter 4, **"as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple,"** by the way, that is like the general of the temple army, because there was a temple police unit. And the captain of the temple is the head of that temple police. **"And the Sadducees came upon them, ² being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead."** Now, why are they so upset that they're preaching that Jesus rose from the dead? You have to understand there's two classes within early Judaism in the first century, there is the Sadducees, who are very sad, you see, as the saying goes, and then there's the Pharisees.

The Sadducees were in control. They were the aristocrats. They were very, very wealthy. They were only about the first five books of Moses, they were all about the Torah, and that's it. They were not into the oral traditions of the Pharisees. They were very strict adherence to the law of God. But they were aristocrats, and they were all about power. They were in control of the calendar in the first century, they were in control of the temple in the first century, the priests all came from the Sadducees. They were in control of the entire priestly lineage in the first century. The Pharisees, on the other hand, were of the people, they were conservative, they were all about the traditions and interpreting the Torah, through like a modern-day perspective, they use the oral traditions of the elders, and they tried to take the Torah and amalgamate it into the lifestyle of the Judaism with good intention. But overall, over the centuries, when things change, and there's more and more traditions, it chokes out the Spirit of God that God gave inside of the Torah itself. Therefore, the Torah became death to the Jews of the first century, because the Pharisees had choked it so much, that the water cannot even flow through it, right. They kept putting filter after filter after filter on the water, and the water just wasn't coming through anymore.

So, Jesus had a problem with the Sadducees, and their greed and had a problem with the Pharisees for choking out the word of God and interpreting the Scriptures in ridiculous ways. But what's important to note here is the Sadducees are in control of the temple, and therefore in control of the calendar. All right. It wasn't the Pharisees that were using the calendar in the first century, it was the Sadducees that were in control. Even though there were multiple calendars that different people used. All of Israel, for the most part, followed the Sadducee calendar, okay.

All right. Now, here's what we've got. Let's go back over to the Scriptures. They arrest them, because the Sadducees all of that was to say this, the Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection. That's why they're very upset, because they're bringing up that Yeshua rose from the dead. They're preaching the resurrection. They're the ones in control of all things. They're like, in control of the White House, right? They're the ruling party of the day. And these guys are preaching resurrection and saying that Jesus rose from the dead and they're disturbing the people. The Sadducees don't want the people to believe like the Pharisees that there is a

resurrection. They want him to believe like themselves, that there is no resurrection, and this life is what is most important. It was actually very agnostic, quite frankly.

It says, **"⁴ However," verse 4, "many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand."** So, 3000 people get saved in chapter 2. And now 5000 people are getting saved in chapter 3, that's 8000 people in two chapters, three chapters, ladies and gentlemen. That's amazing. What's happening in the first century, where is this power today? **"⁵ And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, ⁶ as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest,"** all the Sadducees, **"were gathered together at Jerusalem. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, 'By what power or by what name have you done this?' ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,"** they would have said in the original tongue, "Yeshua, HaMashiach of Nazareth", **"whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone."**

This is a pretty amazing passage here because this comes out of Psalms, where David says, "The stone which the builders rejected, has become the chief cornerstone." It was it was a rabbi in Israel that pointed out to me that in the actual Hebrew in the Psalms in that passage, the word *stone* there, *eben* can also be translated, is connected to the word *ben*, *aben*, son. So, actually a play on words David was making that the son because son and stone are coming from the same three Hebrew letter root word, and that can be interchangeable, son and stones, stones and son. So, the son that the other sons rejected has become the chief son. And why that's so important is because they tell me that David was the eighth bastard son of Jesse. He wasn't from the other son's mother. He was a bastard child. That's why he was in Bethlehem shucking stalls when Samuel showed up, and Jesse had all seven of his sons there. Why didn't he have David there? Because he didn't want the embarrassment. David wasn't legitimate, and everyone knew it. He was rejected by the other sons. And that's why he says the son, the stone, that the builders, the other sons rejected, has become the chief stone and we know who ended up being king of Israel, the greatest king of Israel ever, is King David. I love this because the disciple here points out in his sermon, "look, this is who David was preaching about right here, Yeshua is the son, He's the stone that you builders rejected. He's becoming the chief cornerstone, and He's building a new system from that stone, a new temple is going to be built. Of course, we know that temple is going to be us, the Holy Spirit inside of us.

"¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." -in verse 12. All right, let's go back to the scriptures here, and continue. We're running out of time already. My goodness. Now the name

of Jesus is forbidden. That's His title. ¹³ ***Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled.*** They were, in today's language, they say they were blown out of their minds. They didn't know what to do with this. These men were uneducated, they didn't have a doctorate degree. They literally were articulate and what they saw, and the Sadducees didn't know what to do. But this guy was healed, standing right there. They didn't know what to do. They're afraid of the people because the people are so excited. This guy has been here for *40 years*, he's been lame sitting at this gate, so they can't deny it. All of Israel knows who this guy is. This is why this guy was lame for 40 years. *Everybody* in Israel that had ever gone to the temple knew who this guy was. Nobody could deny that "oh, he was lame last week, and maybe he wasn't lame." No everybody, including the chief priests, all the rabbis knew this guy was lame. Now he's not, there's nothing they can do about it. They can't do anything because all the people would be very upset.

So, what they did was they commanded them in verse 18, ¹⁸ ***So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.*** ¹⁹ ***But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.'*** But we're not going to change anything that we're doing. We're going to continue to speak in the name of Yeshua, I love that, whether or not it's right or not to listen to you are not listen to you, you guys make that determination. But we're moving on, we're doing our thing. We're going to continue to give the gospel. I love the boldness. One of the things that we can pull out of here in the Book of Acts of why the power of God was flowing through them, number one, they so believed in the power of God, and the name and the authority, and the reputation that was behind them, and their Rabbi that was risen from the grave, they had a boldness of a lion, there was no doubt there was no fear of man in them. They would walk right up to someone and go, *"Look, man, I don't have gold or silver. But what I do have is, is the power of God running through my veins because I believe my faith in Christ raised from the dead, wake up, stand up, you're healed."* There was no long drawn out prayer, they basically went up to a guy sitting in a wheelchair at Walmart said, "Hey, you want to be healed? You believe in Jesus here, get out of your wheelchair. Let me show you how this works." That was the power of God, they had literally no doubt, zero, because of what they saw.

Let me ask you a question. What have you seen? What kind of power have you seen? What kind of power do you believe in? What's the authority of the name of God in your life? How much of the authority of God is operating in you? I'm telling you, it's based on the authority that you're calling on. How much do you believe in the name of God? That when you're weak, He's strong. Because when we see the difference that separates a man from God versus a young man from God, it's just learning if the man of God has fear of God only. If he has a fear of man, doesn't matter. You see, God had to crush me in my life. He had to allow a pagan government to indict me on charges, that in God's court would never have stand. I had to go to prison, you know why? To crush my own pride, and then create a lame man that everyone saw was broken and weak, and then resurrect that man. And then so that the power of God can be displayed, and the glory of God can be displayed, and no one could say, "it was Jim Staley." No one can say it's impossible. What happened to him and how he got out and the things that God is doing in his life today. It's just God, it's all about Him. It's not about our comfort. It's not about our

security. It's not about what we feel. It's not about our good reputation, ladies and gentlemen. **It's about what God's reputation is, it's His authority that we're calling upon.** It's not my name. It's not your name. It's His name. That's why when we truly live our lives based on His reputation, and we have so much fear that we're going to live under that reputation and represent that reputation in a way that replicates that reputation. Ladies and gentlemen, that's when He shows up and incredible things happen, okay.

I love this, they threatened the disciples, and this is what the disciples do. They immediately go to their own companions, in verse 23, ***"²³ And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.' ²⁷ For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.'"***

Guys, there's so much in here. The purpose of why we're going through the Book of Acts is to discover the principles that are been found missing in the church today that was there in the early church that gave us the power in the early church from which it was worthy to write down. One of the things that we discover is one, their understanding of the Northern House of Israel and the Southern House of Judah, there was an understanding there of the promises of God, the commonwealth of Israel, something that most of us Christians are very ignorant of. We've never been taught that. When we think of Israel, we think they're Jewish people. But that's not what the Bible says at all. Just being Jewish doesn't mean that you represent all of Israel, that's literally just two tribes. There's so much to learn on that. But they also had this courage, this non fear of man, and only fear of God, there was a lion courage, and they immediately when they were threatened, they hit their knees. They didn't pull their chest out, they literally hit their knees like Moses did with Korah, and said, "God, You choose between me and him." They said, "Lord God, we need you to give us the boldness of a lion and back us up. When we pray for people, heal them. When we go out on a limb, we ask that You would back us up like You did Your Son, so that their mouths will be shut and signs and wonders will be done in Your name." When was the last time that we literally had so much boldness, that we believe that God could heal someone, therefore, I'm going to pray for them right now. I encourage you to do that have that kind of boldness.

"³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." Unbelievable when we talked about Acts chapter 2. But what about Acts chapter 4?

When it happened again, in verse 31, when it says, "they prayed, they assemble together, and then the whole place shook." The power of God showed up and they're all filled with the Holy Spirit. Brethren, can I ask you a question? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? There's a difference between being saved and being filled with the Holy Spirit. If there wasn't we wouldn't come across a scripture here a few chapters from now, where they say, "Hey, we got saved." And he said, "Were you filled with the Holy Spirit?" They're like, "We've never heard of the Holy Spirit, what? What's the Holy Spirit?" And said, "Well, we need to lay hands on you. Because salvation is one thing, but being filled with the Holy Spirit is another". Being filled with the wind of God, His mind, will and emotions, is different than an intellectual salvation. Okay. We'll talk more about that at a different time.

All right. In the meantime, let's move our way through here. So, in this process, what they did was they were so excited about what was going on in the early church, that a lot of them went out and started selling all of their possessions, putting them into one big purse so that they had everything in common. Everyone was taken care of. No one needed anything. And that ends the chapter with this. It says, ³⁶ **And Joseph, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷ having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.** This is a critical statement and why it's there, okay, is that this is *the* Barnabas that ends up being with Paul Paul's right hand, man, eventually, they kind of break and go in different directions. But this guy is a rich guy. And he sells his property and lays it at the apostles' feet.

Now, look, this is really important. They didn't ask for an accounting of their offering. They didn't say, "hey, you know, how's your CPA working? Are you guys a 501C3? I want to make sure I get a receipt for this." Right? It's honestly really sad today in Christianity that we qualify, are giving in so many ways, not everybody, but the way that the apostles were teaching giving, was your giving it *to the Lord*. When they put it at the apostles' feet, it was no longer theirs. It's the apostles. So, whatever the apostles did, that's their problem, okay. If the apostles used it in the wrong way, then they're held accountable by God, but *they*, the giver, is given it to God. That's the beauty behind tithes and offerings. Today, most people don't even tithe at all. It's really, really sad because the power of God is choked out, because there's so many Levites that are called to be Levites, but they have to go back to work in the civilian world, because the rest of the tribes of Israel are not supporting a full-time ministry staff. They're not giving enough to pull people out of the civilian world and bring them into ministry, to grow the people of God in different colors. So, we're missing all of the colors of God's rainbow in ministry, because there's simply not enough finances being laid at the apostles' feet, to grow the kingdom of God through the gifts that God gave God's people. I encourage you be a part of the solution, not the problem. All right.

Let's finish up with a little bit of chapter 5, ¹**But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ²And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?'** Now watch this, ⁴**While it remained, was it not your**

own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Now what happens after this most of you know Ananias drops dead right there in front of the apostle. Then his wife, Sapphira, comes in, does the same thing. She dies, she gets an opportunity to tell the truth. It doesn't happen. Ananias and Sapphira, drop dead. And the apostle is letting them know, Peter said, "It was all yours. You didn't have to sell it. But the moment you sell it, it was still yours. But when you laid it at the apostles' feet, and you defrauded God by saying that you're bringing the full price, but you didn't. You're lying to God."

Now, I don't know about you, but I've been taught my whole life. No, Jesus is the God of the New Testament is a God of love and grace and compassion. Listen, and this doesn't sound like compassion to me. They did a single lie, and God kills them right here in the New Testament. So, the same God that is full of judgment and righteous indignation is the same one here in the New Testament. And by the way, at the end of time, this mamby pamby Jesus is my homeboy God, that is supposed to be all full of compassion and love, and He certainly is, but do you know at the end of time, He's the judge. He's the one that if you don't find yourself, and then in the Lamb's book of life, you're going to be thrown into the lake of fire. That's the same Jesus, okay? So, there's no two different gods, God hasn't changed. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. He's going to have His way period. That's why we need to get in alignment, now. Okay.

So, we're going to end there. Actually, we'll end with this in verse 11. Because I think this is so needed in the church today. **"11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things."** My friends, the reason why God allowed them to drop dead, right there, was to let everybody know that you don't mess around with the kingdom of God, especially money. God says, "I'm the one that gave you the ability to produce funds, finances and provision. I'm the one that gave you that for a vision for provision, which literally means for the vision, I want you to support the vision." And God says, "If you defraud My people, if you defraud My kingdom, there will be a judgment in this life or next." And He wants the people to fear Him. He wants Him to be unified. He wants everyone to straighten up and go, "Oh, man, I don't, I don't want to be killed. I don't want to drop dead. I want to do the right thing." So, what He did was He killed the enemy. It wasn't Ananias and Sapphira, they went on to live in the afterlife. But what happened was the enemy was exposed in that moment. And so, understand, don't interpret the judgment of God as a negative thing. The judgment of God is ultimately always towards that serpent in the Garden. And judgment happens to expose the enemy, so that you can repent in times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

That's exactly what this section really, of Acts is all about. It's having the boldness of a lion. It's preaching the gospel, understanding the gospel, right, and then allowing the fear of God to penetrate our lives. My friends, do you revere and fear God so much so that you don't want to sin, that you stay away from sin? Because until we get to a place where we don't compromise, and we start filtering out our own mind, will, and emotions, and infusing God's mind, will, and emotions into our life, we're simply never going to experience the pipes connecting in your life, in your marriage, in your relationships, in your workplace, the power of God will flow when we stop the compromise. When we declare boldly, the word of God everywhere that we go, and we

become an ambassador for Christ that represents Him, no one is going to hand over their staff of authority. No boss is going to hand the keys to their business to someone who's not representing the vision of that organization. If you represent the organization, character, and the vision of the CEO, I promise you, keys to the car, that business, your future, your breakthrough are coming. So, I hope this message blessed you we're setting the foundation for the future chapters here and Acts that are going to be absolutely groundbreaking. They will change what you believe about your traditional Christian doctrine as we get into the Hebraic roots of our faith, and we read the Bible and start doing Bible things in Bible ways and start calling Bible things by Bible names.

My friends. I'm Jim Staley, with [Passion for Truth Ministries](#). Thank you for joining us, please hit subscribe right now, turn on your notifications, and send this message to someone else that might want to walk through the Book of Acts and learn a few things, that maybe they hadn't learned before. And we'll do the same thing next week. We'll see you in the next video. Have a great week. Shalom

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