

The author of the Acts of the Apostles is the same author of the Gospel of Luke. Both books are addressed to Theophilus, and the latter (Acts) refers to the former (Luke). Luke the Physician was the author of Luke-Acts.



For Luke, Acts it is the ongoing story of **God's new chapter, the Age of the Spirit**. Take care not just to turn Acts into 'object lessons', where the message is 'we should try to be like this'. This is a common tendency with the Book of Acts. Instead, look first for the **good news** or the **grace** in the passage. We see that the teaching of the Early Church itself is about the Gospel; about new insights or celebrations of what God is now doing.

Read Acts 1: 7-8

This was a God-sized vision for the early church and the book of Acts shows how the Gospel was proclaimed to the ends of the known world through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Here are St James the aim is "to know Christ better and to make him better known."

- How is St James vision implemented in your daily life and in the life of the church?

Read Acts 11: 1-18

News travel quickly and in the case of Peter, they have travelled quicker than him. Words got back to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem and they were horrified.

- Why were the Jewish believers so upset? (think of who Cornelius was, 10: 1-2)
- Who do we keep at a distance today? (in the church, in society, etc.)

Peter does not argue, but tell the story (11: 4, you might want to read chapter 10 to get all the details). He tells them about the vision (11: 5-10), the timely arrival of the men sent by Cornelius (11: 11-14), the coming of the Holy Spirit (11: 15), the new implication (11: 16-17).

The bible tells us: When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying (11: 18)

- Our stories can be a great encouragement to others. Do you have a recent story of God's guidance in your life?
- Where do you think God is guiding St James?

Remember:

1. When God gets our attention, we are call to respond by listening and receiving.
2. When God directs our steps, we are call to respond by obeying and following in faith.
3. When God confirms his will, we are call to respond by rejoicing and sharing the story.