

Acts 101

Certificate Level



Classroom Hours: 24(minimum)

Description/Overview: This course reveals the continuing ministry of the Lord

Jesus Christ in the world through the Holy Spirit, and God-called men and women. It assists the student in understanding the historical and doctrinal value of the Book of Acts. The Church marches forward despite persecution, personal setbacks, trials, and difficulties. The unchanging truths and principles gleaned from Acts will be taught to better equip the students for the task of world evangelism. Acts is God's training manual for today's church and will motivate believers to evangelize, receive understanding of the apostles' doctrine, and to share it with others in supernatural power. Students will start out studying the Book of Acts, and will hopefully end up living it.

Objectives

At the Objectives end of this course of study, students will be able to:

1. Explain Luke's intent in writing Luke-Acts; identify and be familiar with the major event(s) of each chapter of the Book of Acts.
2. Prove, using Scriptures from Acts, that speaking in other tongues, as the Spirit gives the utterance is the initial, physical evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Understand this is normative (expected, will happen) in every instance of someone being baptized in the Spirit from the Day of Pentecost to the second coming of Jesus Christ.
3. Trace the advance of the gospel throughout the Book of Acts and understand the role(s) of the Holy Spirit in accomplishing this.
4. Outline or identify church growth, church planting, evangelism, leadership development, missionary, cross-cultural outreach, prayer, gifts of the Spirit principles and strategies found in Acts. Incorporate these into your ministry. Move beyond merely studying Acts to putting these strategies and principles into life practice. Practicing New Testament principles will produce New Testament results.
5. Show, explain or defend that Acts has a didactic (instructional, teaching) purpose rather than being merely a historical record of the early church. Acts is God's training manual for today's church.
6. Recall instances in Acts where baptism was done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Adopt this practice personally. Defend its necessity.
7. Locate examples where preachers supplied further truth to serious seekers. Refuse to compromise apostolic doctrine. Speak the truth in love, taking people from where they are spiritually and showing them a more excellent way. Know the way, go the way, show the way.
8. Study the fellowship of the believers in Acts 2:42 – 47. Identify the pillars of the apostolic church, and express their continuing relevance in the contemporary church today.
9. Luke reveals what Jesus began to do and teach while on earth. Acts reveals what Jesus continues to do through His disciples. Possess a firm understanding of what Jesus longs to do in you and through you.
10. Acts tells of the journey of missions or evangelism. Identify the journeys of Peter, Phillip, and Paul.

Topics/Concepts:

- Background information on Acts and its author.
- Overview of the twenty-eight chapters covering major events in each chapter.
- Birth of the Church at Pentecost.
- Salvation in the Book of Acts.
- Character studies or basic understanding of the lives of Peter, Barnabas, Stephen, Paul, Phillip, Timothy, Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos.
- Missionary Journeys of Paul.
- The role of the Holy Spirit in advancing the Gospel throughout the world.
- Unfold or discover missionary, cross-cultural evangelism, church growth, church planting, leadership development, prayer, gifts of the Spirit, principles strategies, and examples that can be incorporated into one's personal life and ministry.
- Maps will need to be used in tracing the advance of the Gospel especially during Paul's missionary journeys. This incorporates a Bible Geography element into this course.

Recommended Primary Textbook(s)

The Book of ACTS (Overseas Ministries Training Course) Darline Royer and Ralph Vincent Reynolds

As it is in many of our courses the Holy Bible is a fundamental and pivotal textbook for this course.

Recommended Alternatives:

Acts I, II (IABC), Ralph Vincent Reynolds

Acts: The Amazing History of the Church, Jet Witherspoon Toole

Salvation in the Book of Acts, F. Kinzie

Acts: God's Training Manual for Today's Church, James Poitras (Level A, C, T, S selected lessons available in English, Spanish, French, and other languages)

Overview of Lessons available in the Recommended Primary Textbook:

- The Church is Born
- The Church in the Jewish World
- The Church in the Gentile World

Languages Available:

English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian

Course Packet Resources:

The Journey of the Spirit in Acts, James Poitras

Baptism of the Holy Spirit Revealing Evidence that Demands a Verdict, James Poitras

Debate, Defense, and Experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts, JP Hughes

Power Points available for Acts I and II IABC

The Life of Paul, Danny Davis

A variety of articles are available upon request to gats@upci.org

Comments:

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