

# STRETCH

## Acts Session 3 3:1- 6:7

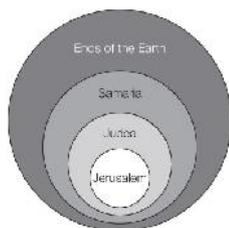
### Outline of Acts (from Fee & Stuart)

- The Good news begins in Jerusalem (1:1-6:7)
- The Good news spreads to Judea and Samaria (6:8-9:31)
- The Good news spreads to the Gentiles (9:32- 12:24)
- The Good news spreads to Asia (12:25-16:5)
- The Good news spreads to Europe (16:6 – 19:20)
- The Good news reaches Rome (19:21-28:31)

### What is a witness?

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be **my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



### Witness of Works (3:1-10)

- *Read 3:1-10, what stands out for you personally from the story as you read it?*

### OT fulfilment theme

- The Spirit as promised by Joel (Acts 2:16)
- The resurrection as David's true Heir (Acts 2:24-32)
- The exaltation of Jesus as the exalted Lord of Psalm 110:1 (Acts 2:33-35)
- The messiah would suffer (Acts 3:17-23)
- The promise Abraham fulfilled (Acts 3:25)
- The rejected cornerstone of Psalm 118:22 (4:11) of whom the nations rage (4:25-26)

### “Signs and wonders”

- Acts 2:19 suggests healing is a “sign” of the new age of the SPIRIT... we can expect it to continue!
- Peter and John had a spiritually discerned confidence for healing “directed his gaze” “look at us”
- This was confirmation of the message just like Jesus - “Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst,” (2:22). Paul has a similar experience (Acts 14:8-9, Romans 15:18-19)

## A “beautiful gate”?



## Witness of words (3:11-26)

- *What does Peter proclaim about Jesus?*
- *How does he challenge his listeners?*
- *How would you feel if Peter was talking to you? What thoughts would go through your mind?*

## He Proclaims Jesus (3:13-16)

- “God glorified Jesus”
- “Holy and Righteous One”
- “Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.”
- “To this we are witnesses”
- “And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know”

## He calls for response

### Act 3:19-20

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”

## Works + Words = Powerful

Acts 4:4

“But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.”

## Attack #1: Opposition (4:1-22)

- Aim (v1-2, 17)
- Attitude (v13)
- Method (v3, 18)

### Attack #2: Deception (4:32-5:11)

- True fellowship (4:32 – 36)
- False fellowship (5:1-11)

### Attack #3: Hostility (5:12-40)

- Motive
- Attitude
- Method

### What gave them such courage?

- The **Evidence** of a changed life (4:8-10, 14, 16) – “we cannot deny it”
- The **Authority** of the risen Jesus (4:10-12) – “no other name by which we MUST be saved”
- The **Freedom** of every Christian (4:18-20) – “we must obey God rather than man... we cannot help but speak”
- The **Sovereignty** of God (4:24-26)
- The **Power** of the Holy Spirit (4:31)

### Could we pray like this?

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” **Acts 4:29-31**