

# Missions: Lecture 4

**Acts Chapters 1-4:  
Jerusalem, Pentecost,  
the Early Church,  
The Holy Spirit & Mission**



# Activity - 1



- Read Acts chapters 1-4 aloud, around the classroom, taking about ten verses at a time
- Break into groups of 3 and answer the following questions:
  - What is happening here?
  - Why is it happening?
  - How can we get it to happen again (on the mission field)
- Report your answers back to the class as a whole

# Converted Into A Community!

- Acts 1:13-15
- Acts 2:41-47
- Acts 4:4, 23-37
- Fellowship
- Apostle's Teaching
- Breaking of Bread
- Prayer
- Sharing of Resources



- (1) How does this apply to church-planting on the mission field?
- (2) Why is individual isolation a danger for new converts, particularly those from societies which place a high value on community?
- (3) How can we create communities that are a spiritual home for new believers?

# Miracles Move Many...

- The miracles did not end with Jesus! This proved that the new faith, initially known as the Way was different!
- Acts 2:1-4, 41
- Acts 3:1-10, 4:4
- Acts 5:12-16
- The miracles were a witness to the gospel that led to large numerical increases in the size of the Church.



# “IN” & “UPON”



- The Holy Spirit 'in' a person does an **inward work** – producing love, joy, peace, patience, goodness... and other qualities such as wisdom, justice and compassion (Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:22,23, Romans 15:13, Exodus 31:3)
- When a person is 'filled' with the Spirit they have great boldness: Acts 2:4, 4:31, 5:3, 9:17, 13:9, 13:52
- The Holy Spirit 'upon' a person produces an **outward work** – such as Samson defeating the Philistines or the various ministry gifts of the Spirit. (Numbers 11:25, 24:2-4, Judges 3:9,10; 15:14,15, Acts 2:17,18)
- The Holy Spirit 'upon' a person helps them to be powerful and transformational witnesses (Acts 1:8)
- The outward work alone is insufficient, the inward aspect and its sanctifying work is essential for salvation: Matthew 7:15-24, Hebrews 12:14

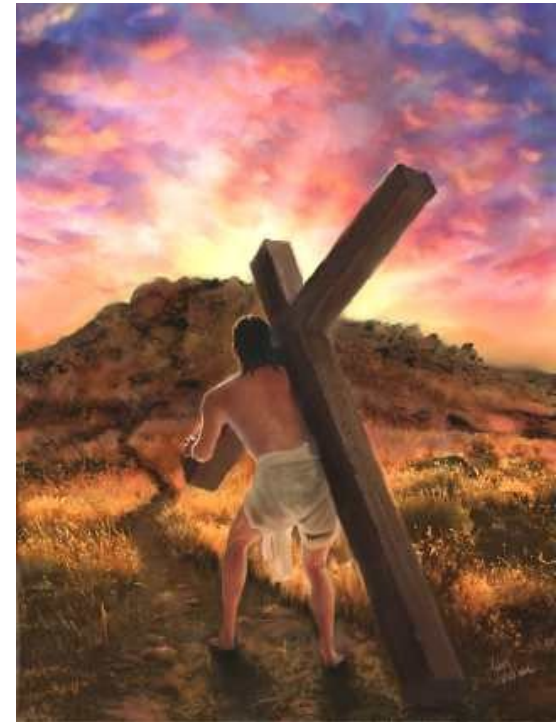
# Jesus Is Central!

- **Act 4:12** And there is salvation in no other One; for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
- Preaching of:  
The resurrection and ascension of Christ  
His being seated at the right hand of God  
and of the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit  
being made available in His Name.
- The central message of missions must be “Christ & Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 1:23, 2:2; Galatians 6:14)



# **Demanding Repentance**

- Acts 2:36-40
- Acts 3:19-21
- Acts 5:29-33
- There is a moral component to mission and we must ask people to 'turn from their wicked ways'



# Persecution

- The preaching of the gospel was resisted by the majority religion (in this case Judaism)
- Acts 2:13 (mocking)
- Acts 4:1-20 (banning)
- Initial persecution was light but it increased over time
- Initial persecution was over:
  - a) the resurrection (Sadducees)
  - b) miracles
  - c) The Name of Jesus





# Prayer

- The early Church was a prayer-soaked community
- Acts 1:14 – unity in prayer
- Acts 1:24 – seeking guidance
- Acts 2:42 – steadfast in prayer
- Acts 3:1 – regular prayer
- Acts 4:31 – powerful prayer
- Acts 6:4 – prayer as a top priority
- How should prayer & intercession be a priority in our missionary work?



# Exercise 2

Get into groups of three and discuss the following two questions:

- (1) What are some of the key differences between a Spirit-filled community of believers and a “*religious institution*”?
- (2) How did the apostles and the early Church demonstrate 'radical obedience' to the gospel?

