

# The Acts of the Non-Apostles

by Nancy Kuhlman

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## Lesson 6 – The Progression of God’s Plan

Review:

- What is God’s plan for getting the Gospel message to the world?
- How is it possible for people to do this work?
- Who are the people God has entrusted this work to?

### Read Acts 2:17-21

1. How do you think Peter’s use of the Old Testament prophecy from Joel indicates that Pentecost is a point on the continuum in God’s plan?
2. In what way would you describe Pentecost as a starting point?
3. How is Matthew 28:18-20 connected to this starting point?
4. How does Luke connect Jesus’ earthly life and works with what is happening in Acts? (See Acts 1:1)

In the events immediately following Pentecost, we see individuals (i.e. Peter, John, dispersed Jews) but very little of an organized structure for the work. As Acts unfolds, a new picture emerges.

### Read Acts 4:32-37

5. Where in these verses do you see that a *corporate identity* among believers is developing?

### Read Acts 6:1-6

6. What corporate action and indication of a more formal organization do you see in these verses?

### Read Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-3

7. Describe the establishment of this congregation and the actions you see that show it functioning as a corporate body that understands its mission.



8. What elements do you see present in the church at Antioch that would contribute to its understanding of its identity and its purpose?

**Read Acts 14:26-28**

9. How is the church a “support system” for the missionaries it sent out?
10. What do you surmise might have been occurring during the “long time” mentioned in verse 28?

**Read Acts 15**

11. What challenge occurs here to test the unity of the church?
12. In what way is the corporate identity of the church strengthened by it?
13. Where do you “see” the Holy Spirit at work?
14. In what situations do we see this “testing” concept occur in the church today, and how can it strengthen us as a church?
15. How did the “sent” missionaries and the “sending” church members spend their time together? (v.35)
16. In your opinion, how is the church today both the *same as* and *different from* the church in Acts?
17. As a non-Apostle member of the church today, what challenges you as you look at the early acts of the non-Apostles?

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