



*The*  
**ACTS**  
OF THE APOSTLES

The image features a central graphic of a stylized orange flame with a textured, paper-like appearance. To the right of the flame, the word "The" is written in a white, elegant script font. Below "The", the word "ACTS" is rendered in large, bold, orange block letters with a similar textured effect. Underneath "ACTS", the words "OF THE APOSTLES" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps serif font. The entire composition is set against a dark brown background with large, light-colored, wavy abstract shapes that resemble flames or smoke.



# *Today's Scripture Reading*

Acts 4:1-12



*And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup> But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.*

*<sup>5</sup> On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.*



*7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.*



*<sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*



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The image features a central graphic of a stylized orange flame with a textured, paper-like appearance. The flame is positioned to the left of the word 'ACTS', which is rendered in a large, bold, orange, sans-serif font. Above 'ACTS' is the word 'The' in a smaller, white, cursive script. Below 'ACTS' is the phrase 'OF THE APOSTLES' in a white, all-caps, serif font. The background is a dark, textured olive green with large, light-colored, wavy, flame-like shapes that create a sense of movement and depth.



- Luke and Acts started as **one book** encouraging Theophilus on the Life and works of Jesus.
- Jesus **ris**es from the dead and reveals himself.
- Jesus **reveals his mission** and provides the power to accomplish it.
- His believers are **filled with the Holy Spirit**
- The life of Jesus and the fulfillment of the OT **validates that God made Jesus Lord.**



- The Jews face their reality of **being enemies of God** without Christ and ask what must they do.
- Peter tells them to **“Repent!”** and trust Jesus.
- God gives grace and **many become Christians**
- The early church **begins to form Christian Community**
- Jesus heals through Peter and John **to validate his rule**





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## **ACTS 16:18**

And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.



*1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.*



## Persecution is **NOT** the enemy of the church

- Persecution **builds** our faith
- Persecution **purifies** the people of God
- Persecution **reveals** our motives



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*5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 **Annas the high priest** was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family.*



*5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: **“By what power or what name did you do this?”***





## LUKE 21:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.



*5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!*



7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being **called to account today for an act of kindness** shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by **the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you **crucified** but whom **God raised from the dead**, that this man stands before you healed.



*9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’*



## PSALM 118:22

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.



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## JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



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## APPLICATION

Courage - The resurrection gives you the right to not care what people think anymore.

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Are you experiencing a Spirit-Filled life?”*



**When is the last time you  
shared the gospel with somebody  
(unabridged and clear)?**

A stylized orange flame logo with three main tongues of fire, positioned to the left of the word 'ACTS'.

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