

# THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOOK OF ACTS— LIVING IN THE DIVINE HISTORY WITHIN HUMAN HISTORY

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This article may be considered a synopsis of Acts in its intrinsic significance and organic reality. Luke 24:45 says that the Lord in resurrection opened the mind of two disciples to understand the Scriptures. We need the Lord to open our mind to understand the portion of the Scriptures that we will be covering.

When we say, “the continuation of the book of Acts,” we are saying that Acts is the only book in the Bible that essentially does not have an ending; it has no conclusion because it is a record of the work of God. The work of God does not stop at Acts 28; it continues. We are in “Acts 29” because we are still in the work of God. Acts 28:31 speaks of “proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, unhindered.” This is the last verse in Acts, showing that the work of God continues.

In this continuation there is a living of the divine history within human history. We are in human history, but we are also in the divine history. The human history is like a shell, and the divine history is like the kernel within the shell. Praise the Lord—we are in the divine history! Before Pentecost a hundred and twenty disciples gathered together in the upper room to pray. Acts 1:14-15 says, “These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers and said (there was a group of persons gathered together, about a hundred and twenty).”

We all should aspire to be like those hundred and twenty in that upper room. They are among the faithful ones who carried out the divine history within human history. Acts reveals a group of people who live in the divine history within human history as “the acting God”; they have become God in life, in nature, in expression, and in function (but not in the Godhead) for the spreading and building up of the church as the corporate manifestation of Christ (1:8, 14; 2:14; 4:10-20, 31-32; 5:20, 38-39; 13:1-4; 26:16-19; 28:31). In the *Life-study of 1 and 2 Samuel* Witness Lee says, “We may even say that, as God’s representative, Samuel was the acting God. God intended to move, to act, yet He needed a representative. Samuel thus became a prophet, a priest, and a judge. He was God’s oracle and God’s administration. As such, he was the acting God on earth” (43). Samuel was God in function and in action. We need to become God in function. This is to be the acting God. We are becoming God in life, in nature, and in function but not in the Godhead—this is for the spreading and building up of the church as the corporate manifestation of Christ.

In Acts 1:8 the Lord Jesus said, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Eventually, the Lord spread from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. According to