

Bringing New Life

Acts 14:1-7

Chinese: page 1790
 Spanish: page 1406
 English-Green: page 754
 English-Brown: page 1107
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Book of Acts

- **Author: Luke**
 - Physician, historian, writer

Book of Acts

- **Author: Luke**
- **Recipients: Churches / Purpose: the Gospel**
 - Perhaps: Young churches, mostly Gentiles plus Jews
 - In support of being witnesses of the Gospel to the ends of the earth
 - That includes us!

Book of Acts

- **Author: Luke**
- **Recipients: Churches / Purpose: the Gospel**
- **Telling history in order to “grow” churches, and to “grow” the Church**
 - Faithful to history: “Know the certainty”
 - Goal: to transform people and churches by a strategic, inspired, and reliable telling of the past
 - “Testimonies” can be like this too
 - The stories of God’s work in lives today

Acts 14:1-7

- 1: Gospel proclaimed, and many Jews & Greeks believed
- 2: • Again starting in the synagogues (gathering places)
- 3: where Jews plus some Gentiles gathered
- 4-7: • Effective speech was the primary means God used for bringing people to faith in Christ
 - A great number from diverse backgrounds believed

**proclaim = tell an important and wonderful message
with matching enthusiasm and power**

Opposite: not tell, or tell without enthusiasm or power

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Acts 14:1-7

- 1: Gospel proclaimed, and many Jews & Greeks believed
- 2: Others (Jews & Greeks) tried to stop the Gospel
- 3: • “Refused to believe”: unbelief & disobedience
- 4-7: • “Poisoned their inner beings”: intentional work to prevent belief & obedience → effective for many
 - Presumably misplaced zeal and bad jealousy
 - ***Some people stop other people from hearing and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ***
 - We should proclaim more and strategically
- Opposition against “brothers”
 - Presumably including the new Christians

Acts 14:1-7

- 1: Gospel proclaimed, and many Jews & Greeks believed
- 2: Others (Jews & Greeks) tried to stop the Gospel
- 3: Proclamation continued, with God’s confirmation
- 4-7: • Because of opposition, Paul & Barnabas continued their bold speech
 - Perhaps to help the new believers grow in their faith
 - As well as bringing more people to faith in Christ
 - God ‘witnessed’ to the ***word of His grace*** as well!
 - Miracles were meant to confirm the message
 - Conviction of the Holy Spirit in people’s lives
 - “This is true!” “Something real is happening here.”

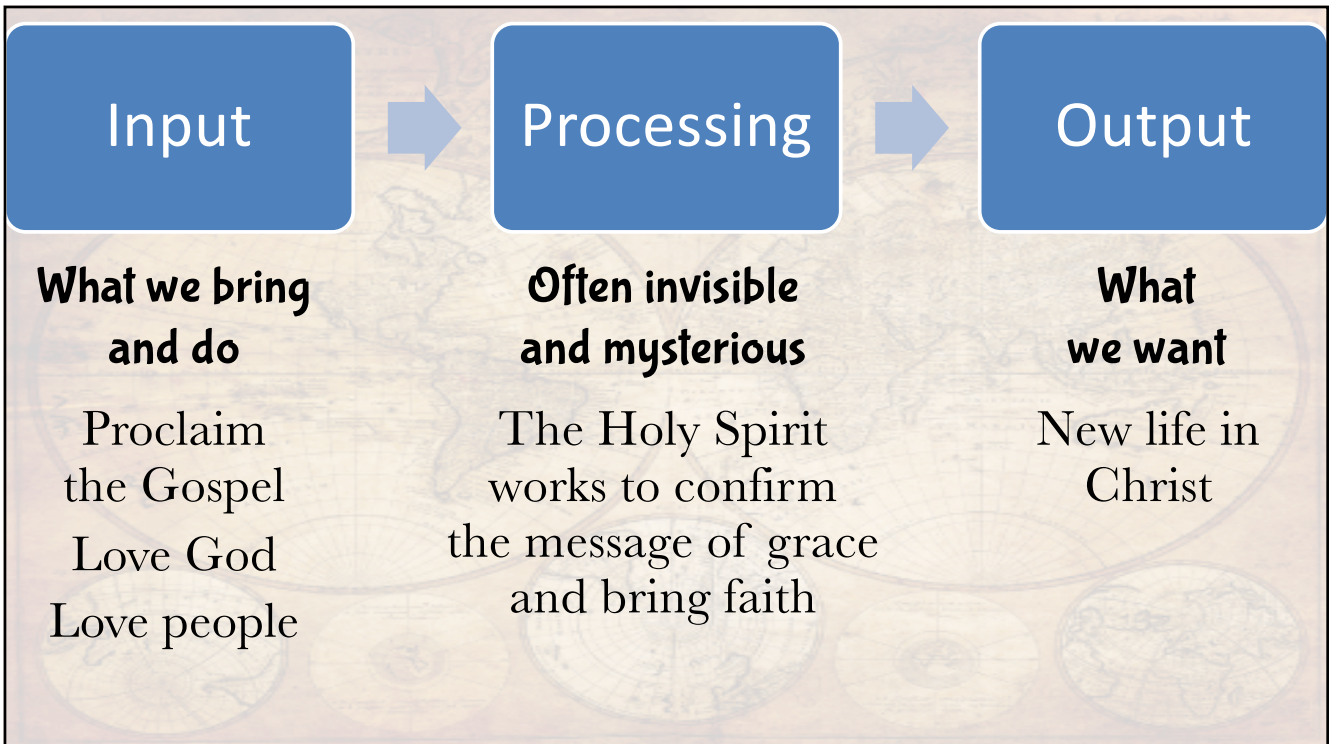
Acts 14:1-7

- 1: Gospel proclaimed, and many Jews & Greeks believed
- 2: Others (Jews & Greeks) tried to stop the Gospel
- 3: Proclamation continued, with God's confirmation
- 4-7: Opposition became extreme. The Gospel continued
 - Miracles did not end the broad opposition
 - Jews & Gentiles both for & against the apostles
 - Leaders (perhaps Jew and Gentile) were a part of the opposition
 - Stoning: Jewish expression of total judgment
 - Paul & Barnabas left that district
 - They continued proclaiming the Gospel

The Big Idea

The proclamation of the Gospel
brings many to new life in Christ
while some oppose it
and try to keep others from believing

**proclamation = tell an important and wonderful message
with matching enthusiasm and power**



Application

Proclaim the Gospel

tell an important and wonderful message
with matching enthusiasm and power

- The Gospel message is fundamental
 - Christ-like living points to and confirms the message
- “Proclamation” is God’s primary means for bringing salvation
 - Includes preaching, sharing with a friend over coffee/tea, conversations after a movie or sports or concert, processing grief or pain or discouragement together, ...
- **Gospel is not:** people trying to be good enough for God

GOD'S	HUMAN	GOD'S GRACE	HUMAN FAITH/
HOLINESS	SIN	IN CHRIST	SPIRIT'S WORK

Application

Proclaim the Gospel

Proclaim the Gospel well, optimistically, boldly, and persistently

- Use stories: the big story of the Bible & humanity, our own
 1. We live in a broken world **because of human rebellion**
 2. We broke a beautiful world of health, wholeness, and love
 3. Restored by Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, bringing peace and restoration as people trust in Him
- Start with possibilities rather than proof
- Encourage exploration in relationships with God’s people
- Watch for God’s confirmation/“conviction”

Application

Proclaim the Gospel

Proclaim the Gospel well, optimistically, boldly, and persistently

Be realistic and yet unafraid of opposition

- Jesus said: “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.” *John 15:20*
- Opposition to the Gospel is both human and supernatural
- Yet, “if God is for us, who can be against us? ... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” *Romans 8:31, 37*

HOW CAN WE TOGETHER SOW GENEROUSLY?

**Proclaim the Gospel
Love God
Love people**



**The Holy Spirit
works miracles
in hearts**

**The proclamation of the Gospel
brings many to life in Christ
while some oppose it
and try to keep others from believing**



**Resulting in
new life in
Christ**