

PROPAGATION

I & II – Knowing  
III & IV – Practicing

**I. The subject of the book of Acts – The Propagation of the Resurrected Christ in His Ascension, by the Spirit, through the Disciples, for the Producing of the Churches — The Kingdom of God**

**The book of Acts reveals a resurrected and ascended Christ who is in the heavens—Acts 1:3, 9-11, 2:32-36.**

- A. **The book of Acts records the Lord’s heavenly ministry:** The Lord’s living and ministry in the heavens are the content of the book of Acts.
- B. **Lord’s heavenly ministry was initiated after His ascension:** The Lord’s ascension was His initiation into His living and ministry in the heavens—Act 5:31.
  1. Into a new realm: This initiation brought Him into a new realm, that is, into the heavens where He now has His living and His ministry.
  2. Ministering in the heavens: The book of Acts reveals that the resurrected and ascended Christ is now living in the heavens and ministering there.
- C. **Lord’s ascension was God’s exaltation:** Christ’s ascension was God’s exaltation of Him—Acts 2:36, 5:31.
  1. **Made Lord and Christ:** The Lord was made Lord, the Lord of all to possess all, and He was made Christ, God’s Anointed, to carry out God’s commission:
    - As God, the Lord was the Lord all the time (Luke 1:43), but as man, He was made the Lord in His ascension after He brought His humanity into God in His resurrection.
    - As God’s sent and anointed One, He was Christ from the time that He was born, but as such a One, He was also officially made the Christ of God in His ascension.
  2. **As Leader and Savior:** God exalted Christ “to His right hand as Leader and Savior”—Acts 28:18; Acts 17:26-27; John 17:2.
    - His being the Leader is a matter related to His authority.
    - He rules sovereignly over the earth with His authority so that the environment may be fit for God’s chosen people to receive His salvation; Christ saved us from the throne and to the throne.

**II. The intrinsic significance of the book of Acts – the propagation of the resurrected Christ in His heavenly ministry.**

**In order to cooperate with the heavenly ministry of the ascended Christ for the propagation of the resurrected Christ, we need to know the intrinsic significance of the book of Acts.**

- A. **The act of Him in man:** The book of Acts is a record of a group of people who are resurrected and ascended with Christ, having Christ within them as their life and Christ upon them as their power and authority; they live by the Triune God within them as their life, and they act by the Triune God upon them as their strength, power, and authority—John 20:22; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8.
- B. **The act for building up the Body:** Acts is a record of a group of people who act and work in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body:
  1. In the Body: Acts reveals the move and activity of the Body, not of individual actions unrelated to the Body—Acts 13:1-4
  2. The one accord: Acts contains a beautiful picture of the one accord in the activities and work of the believers who move in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body—Acts 1:14, 2:46-47.
- C. **The act in the one flow:** The book of Acts shows us the divine stream, the unique flow, the one flow—Gen 2:10; Rev 22:1.
- D. **The intrinsic significance of the book of Acts:** In Acts there is a group of people who know the meaning of resurrection and ascension; They live by Christ as their life, who act by Christ as their power and authority; They realize that they are the Body and act in the Body and for the Body in the one divine stream

—John 20:22; Act 1:8, 2:24, 32-33, 4:33.

### III. To propagate the resurrected Christ, the ascended Christ uses a body of His witnesses —Act 1:8

To carry out His heavenly ministry for the propagating of Himself; the ascended Christ uses a body of His witnesses, who bear a living testimony of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ.

- A. **Witness of the resurrected Christ:** through these witnesses, in His resurrection life and with His ascension power and authority, to spread Himself as the development of the kingdom of God from Jerusalem unto the uttermost part of the earth.
1. **The subjective experience:** Testifying requires experiences of seeing and enjoyment concerning the Lord or spiritual things; it is different from merely teaching—Act 2:40
  2. **Living out of a person:** Paul was appointed as a minister and a witness. A minister is for the ministry related mainly to the work and what a minister does; a witness is for the testimony related to the person, to what a witness is —Act 26:16.
- B. **The focus of testimony is Christ's resurrection:** The Lord's resurrection was the focus of the apostles' testimony —Act 17:18.
1. **Glorifying Jesus:** God glorified His Servant Jesus through His resurrection and in His ascension —Luke 24:46; Eph 1:22.
  2. **The New Testament economy:** The resurrection of the Lord Jesus points back to His incarnation, humanity, human living on the earth, and God-ordained death; and His resurrection points forward to His ascension, ministry and administration in heaven, and coming back —Act 2:23,1:11.
  3. **The indestructible life:** The Lord is both God and resurrection, possessing the indestructible life —John 11:25; Heb. 7:16; Act 2:24; Rev. 1:18.
  4. **Witness of Christ's resurrection:** The apostles were witnesses of the resurrected Christ, not only in word but also by their life and action, especially bearing witness of His resurrection; bearing witness of Christ's resurrection is the crucial point, the focus, in carrying out God's New Testament economy—Act 2:32,4:33.

### IV. The propagation of the resurrected Christ is a move in life for the spread of the gospel—Act 8,10

Our cooperation with the ascended Christ for the propagation of the resurrected Christ is a move in life for the spread of the gospel.

- A. **To move in life:** This move in life corresponds to the Lord's heavenly ministry in His ascension—John 6:63.
- B. **Led by the Lord in the outward situation:** The Lord moved His disciples outwardly for the preaching of the gospel; He was ministering in the heavens to move some of His disciples:
1. Act 8 – Phillip: Philip left Jerusalem for Gaza; this was the corresponding on Philip's side to move in life for the preaching of the gospel—Act 8:26.
  2. Act 9 – Saul: There was a marvelous triangle of Christ ministering in the heavens, with Ananias and Saul corresponding to it on earth
    - after His resurrection, His is the Spirit, Lord Spirit—2 Cor. 3:17, 18
  3. Act 10 – Peter: Peter cooperated with the Lord to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.
- C. **Cooperate with Christ's heavenly ministry to preach the proper gospel:** This is the proper gospel preaching as a move in life under the heavenly ministry of Christ—Act 5:42.
1. **Respond to Christ as the head:** Christ as the Head exercised His headship to move His disciples here and there.
  2. **Cooperate with the heavenly ministry:** The preaching of the gospel in the Lord's recovery should be like this: a prevailing move in life, corresponding to Christ's heavenly ministry under His headship—Act 1:8.

There are five keywords concerning how to cooperate with the Lord in His propagation:

(1) It's a move in the Spirit. (2) It's a move in the body. (3) It's a move in the flow of the divine stream. (4) It's a move by a body of witnesses. (5) It's a move in Life.

This is what the book of Acts shows us. It shows us how the Lord has raised up in His body a body of witnesses who move by the Spirit, in the body, in the flow, and in Life. That's what we hope we can see in this message.  
*(extract from the Message)*

## PROPAGATION – KNOWING

**I. The subject of the book of Acts – The Propagation of the Resurrected Christ in His Ascension, by the Spirit, through the Disciples, for the Producing of the Churches – The Kingdom of God**

[Acts 1:3] To whom also He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many irrefutable proofs, appearing to them through a period of forty days and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God.

**A. The book of Acts records the Lord's heavenly ministry**

[Acts 1:9] And when He had said these things, while they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him away from their sight.

**B. Lord's heavenly ministry was initiated after His ascension**

- This initiation brought Him into a new realm - into the heavens where He now has His living and His ministry.

**C. Lord's ascension was God's exaltation**

[Acts 2:36] ... God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

[Acts 5:31] ... as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

- **As Lord and Christ:** He was made Lord to possess all, and Christ to carry out God's commission.
- **As Leader and Savior:** He rules sovereignly over the earth so that the environment may be fit for salvation; Christ saved us from the throne and to the throne.

**II. The intrinsic significance of the book of Acts: the propagation of the resurrected Christ in His heavenly ministry.****A. Act in the Spirit**

As Life: [John 20:22] ...He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

As power: [Acts 1:8] But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...

**B. Act in the Body**

[Acts 13:1-2] In Antioch, in the local church... the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul...

**C. Act in the flow****D. Thus the intrinsic significance of the book of Acts is the meaning of resurrection and ascension.**

- ★ (1) Live by Christ as our life: act by Christ as our power and authority, (2) In the one divine stream, and (3) act in the Body and for the Body

## PROPAGATION – PRACTICING

**III. To propagate the resurrected Jesus, Christ uses a body of His witnesses****A. Through the witnesses of the resurrected Christ**

- The witnesses require subjective experiences of Lord's resurrection life and His ascension power and authority

[Acts 1:8] But 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.

**B. Testify Christ's resurrection**

- The resurrection of the Lord Jesus points back to His incarnation, humanity, human living on the earth, and God-ordained death; and His resurrection points forward to His ascension, ministry and administration in heaven, and coming back
- Witnesses of the resurrected Christ, in their life and action; bearing witness of His resurrection is the crucial point of the New Testament economy

[Act 2:32] This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses.

[Act 4:33] And with great power the apostles gave testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

**IV. The propagation of the resurrected Christ is a move in life for the spread of the gospel****A. To move in life**

[Luke 24:49] ...put on power from on high

**B. Led by the Lord in the outward situation**

- [Act 8:26] But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, Rise up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza...
  - Philip went Gaza to preach the gospel
- [Act 9:10-11]...Ananias...seek a man from Tarsus named Saul...
  - the cooperation of Ananias
- [Act 10:13] And a voice came to him: Rise up, Peter; slay and eat!
  - Peter preached the gospel to the gentiles

**C. Cooperate with Christ's heavenly ministry to preach the proper gospel**

- Christ as the Head moves us from within, we respond to his heavenly ministry.
- The preaching of the gospel in the Lord's recovery should be like this: (1) a move in life, (2) following the Spirit, and (3) corresponding to Christ's heavenly ministry.

That is, It is not through miracle or movement, but through prayers and petitions, the Spirit, and the words.

[Act 28:31] Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, unhindered.