

A "Paul & Timothy Training" Bible Study

19 Basic Mission Principles From the Book of Acts

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Acts

Principle 1:

PREPARE TO EXTEND GOD'S KINGDOM

1:8

Witness for Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, in four areas:

- Locally (our 'Jerusalem'),
- Nearby, with people of the same culture (our 'Judea'),
- Nearby, with people of similar cultures (our 'Samaria'),
- Neglected peoples wherever they are (the 'ends of the earth').

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

1:14

Wait in prayer for the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

- Start church planting projects with prayer for God's supernatural help. God enables churches to be born in response to our faith.
- Read Acts 10:1-9 where both Peter and Cornelius were praying, and God started to move to bring about the new church.

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

1:14

Be filled with the Holy Spirit for a God-given purpose

- Define the purpose for which you seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- An *experience* is never an end in itself in Scripture.

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 2:

PROCLAIM THE HISTORICAL GOSPEL ACCOUNT

2:14-36

Proclaim the entire gospel account.

- Include Jesus death on the cross.
- Include Jesus' resurrection. Read Luke 24:46-48 and Acts 13:32-34.
- The apostles always proclaimed the resurrections when they witnessed for Christ.

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

2:37-41

Call the people to repentance.

- Read Luke 24:46-48.
- Confirm repentance with baptism without undue delay (Acts 16:13-15, 31-34; 22:16).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 3:

**ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION OF OBEDIENCE
FOR THE CHURCH**

2:38-47

Make disciples in the way Jesus commanded in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) by teaching them from the beginning to obey all His commands:

- Repent, believe, and receive the Holy Spirit.
- Confirm this conversion with baptism and continue to live the new, holy life that baptism initiates (read Rom. 6:1-14).
- Study, teach and obey the Word of God, which is to make disciples.
- Love God, fellow disciples, people in need (in a practical way) and enemies (forgive).
- Break bread (they used a culturally relevant worship form and met in groups small enough for the disciple-making to take place (read Acts 20:7, 20).
- Pray regularly in the name of Jesus (read Acts 4:23-31).
- Give sacrificially (read Acts 4:32-37).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 4:

GIVE COMPASSIONATE CARE TO THOSE WHO ARE NEEDY

3:1-16

Pray in Jesus' name for those who need physical healing (read Acts 5:12-16).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 5:

DEAL BOLDLY BUT RESPECTFULLY WITH HOSTILE AUTHORITIES

4:23-31

Pray for courage and wisdom to deal with the authorities (read Acts 5:17-42).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 6:

CORRECT UNRULY BELIEVERS WITH FIRMNESS

5:1-11

Maintain the purity of the church body by correcting without condemning (read Matt. 18:15-20; Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 5).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 7:

NAME PEOPLE TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED

6:1-7

Conserve the pastoral leaders' time by naming deacons who are filled with the Holy Spirit, to care for those who have material needs.

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 8:

FACE PERSECUTION BOLDLY BUT AVOID OPPOSITION WHEN POSSIBLE

6:8-7:60

Let the privileged ones, those who willingly die for Christ, suffer martyrdom (read Rev. 20:4-6).

Speak boldly to the authorities (read Acts 21:37--23:11; chapters 24-26).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

8:1-4

Leave communities that reject Christ, and go proclaim Him to more receptive people (read Luke 10:10-11; Acts 13:50-51).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 9:

MULTIPLY SMALL NUCLEI OF BELIEVERS TO WHICH CONVERTS ARE EASILY ADDED

8:4-8, 25

Reproduce churches through those who travel as families or small task forces to new areas (read the example of Aquila and Priscilla: Rom. 16:3-5, 1 Cor. 16:9).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 10:
**COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL WITHIN CULTURES
THROUGH EXISTING WEBS OF RELATIONSHIPS
AND LOCAL LEADERS**

10:2-48 Work through heads of households or other leaders to spread the gospel and respect both their culture and authority (read Acts 16:13-15, 29-40, 18:8).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 11:
**FORM TEMPORARY TASK FORCES TO PLANT NEW CHURCHES
IN OTHER CULTURES OR AREAS**

13:1-3 Separate those with missionary gifting ('apostles' in the sense that Barnabas, Luke and other 'sent ones' were called apostles) especially for church planting.

- Separated from the mother church or mission base in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Send them to the people they are to work with (read Acts 11:12; Eph. 4:11-12).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 12:
PENETRATE BOTH SMALL TOWNS AND CITIES

13:4– Go where the people are responsive.

14:7 • Let the gospel flow from the towns to the cities and from the cities to the towns—either way. "Go with the flow!"

- Do not assume that the Holy Spirit is 'direct current' which can flow only one way.

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 13:
TRAIN LEADERS IN NEW CHURCHES

14:21-23 Keep visiting (or sending others to visit) new churches until their new leaders are established (read Acts 20:13-36; Titus 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:2).

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 14:

DEAL WITH CRUCIAL ISSUES TOGETHER WITH SISTER CHURCHES

15:1-31 Have meetings in which elders (leaders) from different churches deliberate, plan and decide issues. Do not treat new churches in pioneer fields as independent; let them go through a period of infancy when they rely on help and counsel from other churches.
Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 15:

WORK BI-VOCATIONALLY, ESPECIALLY WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE IT

18:1-3 Use small business as Aquila and his wife did, or any other vocation that allows you to mix with the common people, to facilitate church planting.
Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

18:24-28 Disciple leaders behind the scenes, as Aquila and Priscilla did for Apollos.
Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 16:

PRAY FOR POWER OVER SATAN AND TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

19:1-7 Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill new, or untaught believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

19:11-41 Pray for God to work miraculously, cast out demons and transform the people and society.
Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 17:

ENCOURAGE LOCAL LEADERS AND ALERT THEM TO WOLVES

20:17-38 Continually communicate with new leaders

- Encourage them.
- Warn them to deal with wolves.

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 18:

**WITNESS BOLDLY FOR CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLE,
GREAT AND SMALL**

21–26 Acts chapters 21 through 26 contain several of Paul's convincing defenses of Christianity..

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:

Principle 19:

**BE PREPARED FOR DIFFICULT TRAVEL CONDITIONS;
LET NOTHING DETER YOU**

27–28 Acts chapters 27 and 28 show how God protected and used Paul in his difficult trek to Rome.

Write here your plans to help your church or organization do this:
