# SALVATION IN THE RAIIK IIF ACTS

Fred Kinzie

#### Salvation in the Book of Acts

#### by Fred Kinzie

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## Contents

Fore	eword
Pref	ace
Part	One
1.	Is Acts Important?
2.	Acts Is Important!
3.	The Beginning of Salvation
4.	The Birthday of the Church
5.	God's New Relationship to Humanity 35
6.	God's Plan of Salvation Revealed
7.	Repentance
8.	Water Baptism in Jesus' Name
9.	The Gift of the Holy Ghost
10.	The Salvation Experiences of
	Paul and Cornelius91
11.	Salvation Experiences, Acts 1-12101
12.	Salvation Experiences, Acts 13-17121
13.	Salvation Experiences, Acts 18-28
Part	Two
14.	The Epistles and Acts
15.	Salvation in Romans
16.	Salvation in Titus
17.	Conclusion
Add	endum 1
Add	endum 2

## 1

# Is Acts Important?

"Get out of the Book of Acts," he blurted indignantly, swinging his arm in a sweeping motion, his face exhibiting a look of pure disgust.

My mother-in-law had just asked her pastor a question pertaining to salvation. Obviously, it disturbed him to hear her refer to the Book of Acts as a basis for her question. Likewise, to hear him refer to Acts in such a contemptible manner disturbed her. Am I touching an untouchable? Isn't it reliable? Are we not supposed to read and see it like the rest of the Bible? she wondered to herself.

Arising from his chair the pastor walked toward her, Bible in hand, and continued sharply, "You need to let me teach you!"

"But isn't the Book of Acts true and reliable?" she questioned sincerely.

Still standing with Bible in hand, a scowl on his face,

and obviously agitated by her question, he reiterated, "You heard what I said. Get out of the Book of Acts, and come, let me teach you."

"But I don't understand!" she replied earnestly, feeling deeply the sting of his insinuation.

"Look, if you want to continue in our church, drop this Acts business. If you don't, you're not welcome. I don't want you discussing in our church what you've brought up today!" he stated bluntly.

Her face blushed faintly, and with an anguished look in her eyes, she replied meekly, "I'm sorry this disturbs you, Pastor, but I have been reading and studying this and am convinced that the Book of Acts contains the truth about salvation."

Angrily, he turned and stalked out of the house, leaving her shocked at his demeanor. She found it difficult to comprehend what had just occurred. It was incredible! He had cast a shadow of doubt over the New Testament account of the Early Church!

"My pastor doesn't believe in the Book of Acts!" she murmured to herself. "I wonder why?"

What about the Book of Acts? Is it important? What would we miss without it? Is it an inspired book? If Luke's Gospel account is inspired and accepted as such, why would the Book of Acts not be? The same author wrote both. His first book was about what Jesus began to do and teach, and the second picks up that theme and continues the account. Are the facts and information contained in the Book of Acts trustworthy? Is it necessary to our understanding of the birthday of the church and its subsequent life in this world?

## 2

# Acts Is Important!

The excitement that the Acts of the Apostles has created in the twentieth century is comparable to what occurred at the original outpouring of the Holy Ghost. Written about A.D. 60, its pages still reverberate with that great truth sounding from heaven! The outpouring of the Holy Ghost in this century has focused the attention of believers upon this account of the church's beginning and causes many to identify with the experience it describes.

To a great extent the Pentecostals are responsible for this twentieth-century explosion by (1) insisting on speaking in tongues as the first sign or evidence of the Holy Spirit's outpouring; (2) urging every believer to be a receiver; and (3) teaching that every believer will know when he receives the Holy Spirit.

These teachings have focused attention on the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a definite and knowable experience. The accompanying glory has made recipients