

PRACTICAL  
DISCIPLESHIP  
TRAINING SCHOOL

JOHANNES AMRITZER

*“The Shepherd does not give birth to any lambs,  
but the sheep do. The Shepherd leads the sheep.”*

-David Yonggi Cho

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These Bible studies were held during the autumn of 1997 at Österängen, where the Filadelfia church of Jönköping has one of its cell groups.

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# PREFACE

## DEDICATED TO THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS!

You are now reading Bible study material which was born out of practical revival work. This is not a theological booklet about the first church, nor do I claim to possess any deep theological knowledge; however, I do have experience in raising disciples. If you are looking for "desk-theology" you will have to keep on searching. But if you wish to roll up your sleeves and share the joy of bringing in the harvest with me and other disciples, I would like to congratulate you for having found a material that will give you guidance and help. I ask you to "test everything and hold on to the good."

This material is meant to be used when training believers in the intermediate stages of the church. This means it does not contain teaching for pastors or newly saved people. Instead, it is a practical discipleship training school which challenges "ordinary" Christians to raise and foster newly saved people. In addition, I think it can be useful for youth-leaders, cell-group leaders, and people involved in the ministry of helping. My wish is for this material to minister to the body of Christ by improving the follow-up of the newly saved and making it more efficient. There is no doubt that there is a great lack in this area, in churches all over the world. Pray! Allow the Holy Spirit to change and equip you as you study the first church and the book of Acts.

It is my conviction that your life will become so much richer with the anointing of Jesus and the knowledge from the word of God as you put these simple truths and foundations of the Gospel into action. Finally: A happy, working everyday disciple will never be disappointed in God. The Bible and the Gospel about Jesus last to stand on and live for!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johannes Amritzer". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'J' being particularly large and stylized.

**Johannes Amritzer**

Your and the Master's friend

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# INTRODUCTION

## PRESENTATION

I would like to take you on a journey through the first history book of the Christian church, the Book of Acts. I suggest that you start by reading in the sequence of the author, the doctor Luke:

1. The Gospel of Luke
2. The Book of Acts

Then, we can start to study the details.

The book of Acts was written about 75 AD. It reflects the first 30 years of the church which were full of drama and expansion. We take a voyage of discovery from approximately year 30 to 60, together with Peter and Paul, who are some of the central characters in the book of Acts. The journey starts in Jerusalem, via Judea and Samaria, all the way to the capital of the Roman Empire, Rome, yes, to the ends of the earth (*Acts 1:8*).

## BACKGROUND

The Gospels give us a picture of Jesus, whom we love, follow and wish to be like. The Book of Acts reflects a healthy church life and gives a pattern for you, me, and all other disciples that are willing to allow the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Jesus actually said that we would do the same things He did and even greater (*John 14:12*). In the second chapter of Acts, this promise is fulfilled, and Jesus is multiplying Himself by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:5, 2:1-4*). Thus starts the age of the church. The Book of Acts is still invaluable for the Christians in the modern age; invaluable as a pattern for all Christian life, as well as church-building. Therefore, let's take time to study a detailed documentation of a church life that is perfectly possible today, and let's do this without any religious preconceived ideas.

## THE VISION

The vision behind this "discipleship training school" is that we want to train and equip you to become a self-supporting Christian with a holy and healthy self-confidence. The idea is to train, raise, and foster newly saved people in order to be able to follow up our future evangelization initiatives. "The Shepherd does not give birth to any lambs, but the sheep do. The Shepherd leads the sheep." (David Yonggi Cho). We will study the

first Christians in regard to: preaching, baptism in water, baptism in the Holy Spirit, the healing ministry, the ministry of deliverance, prayer and fasting, the building of the church, leadership, having all possessions in common, etc. If you, like Peter, make the Holy Spirit your best friend, I am convinced that your everyday life will be marked by the visitation of angels, revelations, and the salvation of friends. In recent years this has really been a part of my everyday life. I wish to share this experience, but above all I want to introduce you to the main character of the Book of Acts: The Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts is really the book of the Holy Spirit! For those of you who wish to become practical, anointed, and ordinary disciples -

**LET THE VOYAGE BEGIN!**

# PART 1

## PATTERNS OF REVIVAL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

### INTRODUCTION

A study of the first church, the book of Acts - the first history book of the Christian church.

#### Author

Luke, a Christian doctor of gentile origin, with a Greek reputation that indicates advanced education. Luke has also written the Gospel of Luke, which means that the Book of Acts is part two in his series. During a period of time he was also part of the team that traveled with Paul, and thereby had personal experience with some of the things that are depicted in the Book of Acts.

#### Date

About 70 AD. (The book of Acts depicts slightly more than the first 30 years of the church.)

#### Recipient

Theophilus, a man with possible high official position and status in the Roman Empire. Before writing, Luke carefully researched and studied every detail from the beginning.

#### Purpose

To depict the triumphal procession of the gospel from Jerusalem (and the Jews) through Samaria and out to the entire world including all the gentile nations (*Acts 1:8*). In the first part of the Gospel of Luke, he writes about “all that Jesus did and taught”. In part two of Acts, Luke writes about everything that Jesus is doing and teaching, but this time through the Holy Spirit, the believers and the church. The Book of Acts tells us about the success of the Good News, “the great triumphal procession.”

#### Suggestions

- ▶ Study the first church together, read the book of Luke and the book of Acts during your daily Bible reading.
- ▶ Pray before you start your studies, so that the main character of the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit, can guide you.
- ▶ Study without any preconceived ideas and allow the Holy Spirit to give you a renewed picture of Jesus, yourself, the life in the church, and the possibilities in your environment. Remember that the first Christians were totally dependent on

the Old Testament and the Holy Spirit. Everything was new, fresh, and exciting!

## **PATTERNS OF MOVEMENT OR "REVIVAL" ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF ACTS**

The book of Acts gives a model for the movement around preaching the Gospel by a believer in a specific place.

Let's focus on the movement in two cities:

1. Samaria, the capital of Samaria, *Acts 8:5-24*
2. Ephesus in Asia Minor (Turkey), *Acts 19*

When the revival had passed through Jerusalem like a firestorm, it spread due to persecution. First to Samaria through Philip, the evangelist, and then later on to Asia Minor through Paul. The following seven points are found in the movements in Jerusalem, Samaria, and Asia Minor. They can be seen as a model and standard for true biblical revival:

- ▶ Teaching focused on Jesus - "The Messiah of the Scriptures is here!"  
*Acts 8:5, 12, 19:4b,8*
- ▶ Baptism in water in connection to salvation  
*Acts 8:12, 19:1-5*
- ▶ Baptism in the Holy Spirit - Power for ministry  
*Acts 8:14-17, 19:6*
- ▶ Prayer for the sick - Healing ministry  
*Acts 8:6-8, 13, 19:11-12*
- ▶ Deliverance from evil spirits - Ministry of deliverance  
*Acts 8:7, 19:12-17*
- ▶ Persecution from the religious people and the world in various shapes and forms  
*Acts 8:1-3, 19:9, 23-40*
- ▶ The occult is exposed and the satanic network disappears  
*Acts 8:18-23, 19:13-20*

**START SPREADING THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**



# PART 2

## PREACHING OF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

### INTRODUCTION

The preaching of the first Christians - “the Messiah of the scriptures is here.”

To preach is to shortly and simply, proclaim a message. To teach is to thoroughly explain. Let’s separate preaching from teaching.

A high Roman official was always preceded by a crier or a herald. When the herald came to town, the people knew that a highly placed person was coming. The herald prepared the people to receive someone of importance and created great expectations.

Several hundred years before the arrival of Jesus, the prophets Isaiah and Malachi spoke of a messenger that would come and make way for Jesus just before He entered the scene. He came and we know him from the Gospels as John the Baptist. John was the last prophet after Malachi, and he also saw the Messiah (the Anointed One). John said, “He will baptize in the Holy Spirit and with fire” (*Matthew 3:11*). John was a typical herald of his day (*Acts 19:4*). The first Christians were also heralds, but with far more potential than John ever had. They were baptized in fire!

#### Preaching in the book of Acts

In the book of Acts, there are about 10 sermons, parts of sermons, or speeches of defense mainly by Peter and Paul; but also by Stephen, Philip, and Apollo. You will find the sermons of the first Christians in *Acts 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28*. I encourage you to make a Bible study of your own.

### TESTIFY

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*  
*Acts 1:8*

Today, most testimonies are given in a courtroom. A testimony should be:

- ▶ Explanatory
- ▶ Exemplifying
- ▶ Self-Experienced
- ▶ Convincing

This means that it must be honest and go straight to the point. To preach is to testify about Jesus in an uncomplicated way. The preachings of the first Christians were not topical sermons, but concrete messages - verified evidence that Jesus was alive.

Therefore, you can preach!

## **PREACHING**

Let's study one of the sermons of Peter, namely the one he held in the house of the Roman centurion, Cornelius (*Acts 10:34-48*). All sermons depicted in the book of Acts have the following four points in common. You can see these points as a pattern for a correct New Testament sermon.

- ▶ Quotations from the prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament  
Explanatory - *Acts 10:43*
- ▶ Jesus as he revealed Himself  
Exemplifying - *Acts 10:36-38*
- ▶ Their personal experience  
Experience - *Acts 10:39-42*
- ▶ The promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus in us  
Convincing - *Acts 10:44-48*

See also *Acts 2:15-33,36*, *Acts 3:3-16,20-26*, *Acts 4:8,10,19-20*, *Acts 7:37*, *Acts 8:32-35*, *Acts 9:22*, *Acts 13:17-41*, *Acts 17:2-3*, *Acts 18:5,28*, *Acts 26:22-23,27*, *Acts 28:23*

## **THREE KEY PREPOSITIONS IN PREACHING:**

1. On the Word
2. Under the Anointing
3. In the name of Jesus

## **START PREACHING ABOUT JESUS!**

# PART 3

## BAPTISM IN WATER - A PART OF SALVATION

### INTRODUCTION

The direct translation of the Greek word for baptism, *baptisma* or *baptizō*, means to dip in paint, to drown, or to sink a ship.

### COMMAND

Jesus commanded his disciples to make new disciples by baptizing them in water (*Matthew 28:18-20*). He also explained that baptism was an inseparable part of repentance, the salvation (*Mark 16:15-16, John 3:5*).

### MEANING

The meaning of baptism in water is explained to us by the two central characters in the Book of Acts, Peter and Paul.

Peter:	Saved through water	<i>1 Peter 3:18b-21</i>
Paul:	The foundation	<i>Ephesians 4:5, Hebrews 6:1-2</i>
	A funeral	<i>Romans 6:3-8, Colossians 2:12</i>
	The start of the Christian life	<i>Galatians 3:26-27</i>
	Born through water	<i>Ephesians 5:26, Tit 3:4-6</i>
	A sign, circumcision	<i>Colossians 2:11-12</i>

### BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS:

There are nine occasions of baptism described in the book of Acts. Peter, Philip, Ananias, and Paul are who performed the baptisms on these occasions. Perhaps the other eleven apostles were baptizing as well.

- ▶ Jerusalem *Acts 2:37-41*
- ▶ Samaria *Acts 8:12*
- ▶ On the way to Gaza *Acts 8:35-39*
- ▶ Damascus *Acts 9:18*
- ▶ Caesarea *Acts 10:47-48*
- ▶ Philippi *Acts 16:14-15*
- ▶ Philippi *Acts 16:30-33*
- ▶ Corinth *Acts 18:8*
- ▶ Ephesus *Acts 19:3-5*

## **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS:**

Let's study one case of repentance and baptism in the book of Acts: Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. (*Acts 8:26-39*).

### **When does baptism take place in the first church?**

1. Directly after repentance and salvation (*Acts 8:36*). Paul is the exception in (*Acts 9*).
2. When there is faith, the baptism can take place (*Acts 8:37* - This verse is excluded in some translations).

### **How is baptism performed?**

1. Through immersion in water (*Acts 8:38-39*)
2. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit or in the name of Jesus. (*Matthew 28:19, Acts 19:5*)

### **Who performs the baptism?**

All disciples. In *Acts 8* it is Philip, one of the deacons from Jerusalem that is baptizing straight from the soup kitchen (*Acts 6:1-5*).

### **Where does baptism take place?**

Anywhere the water is deep enough to allow immersion.

**START BAPTIZING IN THE NAME OF JESUS!**

## PART 4

### BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT - POWER FOR MINISTRY

#### INTRODUCTION

John, the forerunner of Jesus, says in all four Gospels that he is baptizing in water, but when the Messiah comes He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

▶ *Matthew 3:11* ▶ *Mark 1:8* ▶ *Luke 3:16* ▶ *John 1:33*

#### JESUS

On several occasions Jesus talks to His disciples about the Helper - the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit - that will come in His place after His death, resurrection, and ascension. The plan of Jesus was to multiply Himself and send out the disciples on the same mission. The Greek word for Helper, *parakletos*, means “someone that assists in stirring up an army.”

▶ *Luke 24:49* ▶ *John 15:26, 16:13-15* ▶ *Acts 1:5, 8*

#### BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Jesus wants to totally cover us with His Spirit. In the same way a person is covered by water at the time of baptism in water. This is what it means to become baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is possible to go to heaven just by faith in Jesus, but it is impossible to serve Him here on earth without being clothed with power from on high. The Book of Acts describes six occasions where people were baptized in, or filled with, the Holy Spirit, mostly in connection to repentance and baptism in water.

- ▶ Jerusalem      *Acts 2:1-18*
- ▶ Jerusalem      *Acts 4:31*
- ▶ Samaria        *Acts 8:14-21*
- ▶ Damascus      *Acts 9:17*
- ▶ Caesarea        *Acts 10:44-46*
- ▶ Ephesus         *Acts 19:6-7*

#### PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Let's study the examples of baptism in the Holy Spirit from the Book of Acts.

##### **When did the baptism in the Holy Spirit take place in the first church?**

- ▶ Immediately in connection to repentance and water baptism (*Acts 19:5-6*)
- ▶ In response to eager and persevering prayer (*Acts 2:1-4, 4:31, 8:14-16*)

- ▶ In connection to preaching the Word (*Acts 10:43-46*)
- ▶ Through the apostle's hands, a transmission of power (*Acts 8:17, 9:17-18*)

### **What was the experience like?**

- ▶ In the Book of Acts, no baptism in the Holy Spirit is like another. The Holy Spirit is sovereign!
- ▶ Everyone has an experience, but it is individual and unique for each one of the disciples.

### **SPEAKING IN TONGUES:**

The gift of speaking in tongues is written in plural in the original text. There are at least 3 ways of speaking in tongues - one for personal edification and two prophetic purposes.

#### **Does everyone speak in tongues when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit?**

1. Most of the time, this specific spiritual gift was released at the time of baptism in the Holy Spirit. In *Acts 19*, the disciples were prophesying as well. My experience is that 99% of people start speaking in tongues.
2. You cannot speak in tongues without being baptized in the Holy Spirit, but it is possible to be baptized in the Holy Spirit without having started to speak in tongues yet. If you have not started speaking in tongues, or are unsure if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, simply ask God for this gift, receive it in faith, and begin to speak!

#### **Can everyone speak in tongues?**

- ▶ Yes, everyone can speak the type of tongues for personal edification (*Mark 16:17*)
- ▶ Not everyone speaks in prophetic tongues (*1 Corinthians 12:10, 30*)

#### **Why should someone speak in tongues?**

- ▶ It builds up our spiritual life and makes us strong in faith (*1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 18*)
- ▶ It helps us in prayer when we do not know how to pray (*Romans 8:26, Jude 20*)

#### **Advice when using the gift of speaking in tongues**

- ▶ Speak in tongues often (*1 Corinthians 14:18. 39-40*)
- ▶ Pray that you will get the gift of interpretation, so that you can build up others (*1 Corinthians 14:5, 12-13, 19, 26*)

## **ASK, RECEIVE, AND SPEAK!**

## PART 5

# HOUSE CHURCH - THE HEART OF THE FIRST CHURCH

### INTRODUCTION

The gathering of believers was such a big part of the book of Acts that if every reference was listed, it would cover more than half the book. Let's look at the three types of gatherings of believers with just a few examples recorded throughout the Book of Acts.

### THREE TYPES OF MEETINGS

- ▶ Mass-meetings, large gatherings, etc.: These were often spontaneous due to an outpouring of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:1-41*), a miracle (*Acts 3:1-4:4*), or persecution (*Acts 21:27-22:21*).
- ▶ Apostles' teachings: Believers would gather for the apostles' teachings such as in Solomon's Colonnade at the temple in Jerusalem (*Acts 5:12-16*). When the apostles traveled to a new city they would start by teaching in the synagogues, but if they were rejected, they would begin teaching in public places (*Acts 19:8-10*).
- ▶ House meetings: These were really the heart of the first church. It was a forum for prayer, fellowship, the functioning of the spiritual gifts, simple teaching, worship, natural evangelism, the raising of disciples, and so on (*Acts 12:12*).

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FACTS

According to archaeological findings, the first known church building can be dated back to 160 AD. This means that it took Christians 130 years of expansive church life before they started meeting in church buildings.

The first 30 years of the first church were extremely expansive and it is believed that the churches of Jerusalem, Ephesus, and Rome each had at least 50,000 members around 60 AD. The natural question is: Where did all these Christians most often meet for teaching, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer? The home was the natural meeting place for church-life (*Acts 2:41-47*).

### HOUSE CHURCHES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Here are some examples of house churches in various cities around the Mediterranean.

- ▶ Jerusalem            *Acts 2:46, 5:42, 12:12*
- ▶ Caesarea            *Acts 10:24, 21:8*
- ▶ Philippi            *Acts 16:15, 30-33, 40*
- ▶ Rome                *Acts 28:30-31*

## **HOUSE CHURCHES IN ROME**

When the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Rome, he ends his letter by sending greetings to some of the specific house churches, which constituted the enormous congregation (*Romans 16:3-5, 10, 11, 14, 15*).

### **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS**

#### **How did a house church start?**

It was born spontaneously and was therefore naturally homogeneous.

#### **Who was the leader of this house church?**

- ▶ The natural leader, often the owner of the house
- ▶ Someone that had been a believer for some time (longer than the others)

#### **How large were the house churches?**

- ▶ This of course varied depending of the size of the home, but it was also related to which class of society the people belonged to
- ▶ It could be between 2-30 people (8-12 was very good).

#### **Did the house churches evangelize?**

- ▶ Of course, that is how they were born.
- ▶ The right for a house-church to exist depended on if it evangelized or not.

#### **Did the house church ever split?**

- ▶ Yes, often spontaneously due to lack of space
- ▶ Assuming there was a mature leader for a new home-church.

#### **If house church is so important, should I leave my church to start a house church?**

No! But if a church building on Sunday is the only place you encounter God, then maybe it's time you start thinking about your home as a church too.

## **START RAISING DISCIPLES IN YOUR HOME!**



# PART 6

## MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE

### INTRODUCTION

Thirty percent of Jesus's documented ministry was spent delivering people from evil spirits.

#### Deliverance Ministry of Jesus

- ▶ *Luke 4:32-37, 40-41*
- ▶ *Luke 6:18*
- ▶ *Luke 7:21*
- ▶ *Luke 8:2, 27-35*
- ▶ *Luke 11:14*
- ▶ *Luke 13:32*

#### Deliverance Ministry of the Apostles

- ▶ *Matthew 10:1*
- ▶ *Mark 6:7*
- ▶ *Mark 16:17*
- ▶ *Luke 9:1*
- ▶ *Mark 10:19-20*

### DELIVERANCES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ Jerusalem      *Acts 5:15-16*
- ▶ Samaria        *Acts 8:6-7*
- ▶ Paphos         *Acts 13:6-12*
- ▶ Philippi        *Acts 16:16-18*
- ▶ Ephesus        *Acts 19:11-19*

### WORD STUDY

Some people are attacked, tempted, or harassed but others are fully controlled or possessed by demons. The word "possessed" is not in the New Testament, instead the Greek word "daimonizomai" is used. Directly translated, it means: "demonized" or "to have a demon".

### PLAN OF ACTION CONCERNING DELIVERANCE

1. Identify them, or tell them to be silent  
*Mark 1:25, Mark 9:25, Luke 8:30, Acts 16:16*

2. Bind them  
*Matthew 12:28-29, Luke 11:21-22*
3. Cast them out  
*Luke 4:35*
4. Fill up the empty space  
*Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26*

## **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS**

### **Who can deliver?**

The Great Commission concerns everyone. It includes driving out demons.

*Mark 16:17*

### **What does it mean to "have covering"?**

To know your position in Christ.

*Ephesians 1:17-23, Colossians 1:27, Colossians 2:9-10*

### **Which weapons are available for effective deliverance ministry? (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)**

- ▶ Purity and humbleness before God *James 4:7-8, Proverbs 28:1*
- ▶ Prayer and fasting *Mark 9:29*
- ▶ Insight into the Word *Luke 4:4,8,12*

### **Do we need to be worried when we are delivering someone?**

No, provided that we are:

- ▶ Pure and humble *1 John 1:7, 4:4, Acts 19:13-17, Jude 9*
- ▶ Living in the Fire of the Holy Spirit *Acts 28:3-5*

Robert McAlister, a Pentecostal leader from the spiritually influenced Brazil states: "If a missionary cannot cast out demons, he might as well just go home."

## **START CASTING OUT EVIL SPIRITS!**

# PART 7

## PERSECUTION

### INTRODUCTION

Christianity was born out of persecution.

### PERSECUTION OF:

- ▶ The Prophets *Matthew 5:12, Acts 7:52*
- ▶ Jesus *John 5:16, 10:39, 11:53*
- ▶ The disciples *Matthew 5:10, 10:23, John 15:20*

### PERSECUTION IN THE BOOK ACTS

Most of the time, the first church was living under persecution from the religious leadership of that time.

- ▶ Jerusalem *Acts 4, 5:17-42, 6:9-8:3, 9:28-30, 12:1-5, 21:27-32, Acts 22-23*
- ▶ Damascus *Acts 9:23-25*
- ▶ Antioch in Pisidia *Acts 13:45-51*
- ▶ Iconium *Acts 14:1-6*
- ▶ Lystra *Acts 14:19-20*
- ▶ Philippi *Acts 16:19-24*
- ▶ Thessalonica *Acts 17:5-10*
- ▶ Berea *Acts 17:13*
- ▶ Corinth *Acts 18:6,12-18*
- ▶ Ephesus *Acts 19:9,23-40*
- ▶ Greece *Acts 20:2-3*

### LAWSUITS AGAINST PAUL

The religious persecution led to profane trials:

- ▶ Before the governor Felix in Caesarea *Acts 24*
- ▶ Before the governor Festus *Acts 25*
- ▶ Before King Agrippa *Acts 26*

### DIFFERENT FORMS OF PERSECUTION

- ▶ The Jewish religious persecution  
*Acts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23*

- ▶ Persecution from other religions  
*Acts 19*
- ▶ Spiritualistic persecution  
*Acts 13, 16*
- ▶ Persecution from the world  
*Acts 12, 14, 24, 25, 26*

## CONSEQUENCES OF PERSECUTION

- ▶ Unity *Acts 4:24-33, 12:5, 12*
- ▶ Humbleness *Acts 4:29, 20:19*
- ▶ Boldness *Acts 4:30*
- ▶ Diffusion *Acts 8:4, 9:32, 11:19*
- ▶ Joy *Acts 5:41, 13:52, 16:25*

## PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

### Should we seek persecution?

- ▶ No, it will come anyway from the saltiness of a pure gospel
- ▶ We ought to be prepared

### What should we do when we are persecuted?

- ▶ Rejoice and be glad *Matthew 5:12, 2 Corinthians 12:10*
- ▶ Pray *Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:14*
- ▶ Continue without losing focus *Matthew 10:14, Acts 4*
- Paul's views: *Acts 20:22-24, 21:13*
- The Jews of Rome: *Acts 28:22*

## START PRAYING FOR THOSE THAT PERSECUTE YOU!

# PART 8

## HEALING MINISTRY

### INTRODUCTION

One of God's covenant names is Jehovah-Rapha (translated: I am the Lord your healer). *Exodus 15:26* When asked about healing, Jesus has said, "I am willing" *Matthew 8: 1-3, 2 Corinthians 1:20.*

1. Healing in the Old Testament *Genesis 1:31, 20:17, 25:21, 2 Kings 5:14, Psalms 103:3, 105:37, Song of Solomon 1:3, Isaiah 53:4-5, Malachi 4:2*
2. Healing Ministry of Jesus *Luke 5:15, 6:18-19, 7:21-22, 8:2*
3. Healing Ministry of the Disciples *Matthew 10:8, Mark 6:13, 16:18, Luke 10:9*

### HEALING IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ Jerusalem *Acts 3:1-16, 5:12-16, 6:8*
- ▶ Samaria *Acts 8:6-7*
- ▶ Damascus *Acts 9:17-18*
- ▶ Lydda *Acts 9:32-35*
- ▶ Lystra *Acts 14:8-10*
- ▶ Ephesus *Acts 19:11-12*
- ▶ Malta *Acts 28:8-9*

### DEFINITIONS

Illness is a consequence of the fall of man.

- ▶ Physical or mental illness *Matthew 4:23-24, 9:35, 1 Corinthians 12:9*
- ▶ Spirits of illness *Matthew 12:22, Luke 13:10-13, 16*
- ▶ Illness because of sin *Numbers 12:9-12, John 9:1-3, James 5:16*

### PLAN OF ACTION CONCERNING HEALING

1. Speak the word of God  
*Psalms 107:20, Proverbs 4:20-22, Mark 2:2, 16:20, John 1:1, 14, Acts 6:7, Romans 10:17, Colossians 1:16-17*
2. Receive faith  
*Mark 5:34, 10:52, Acts 14:9-10, Romans 10:17*

3. Obey, act, heal

*Mark 16:18, James 5:14-16*

4. Heal in the name of Jesus

*John 16:24, Acts 3:16, 4:10, Philippians 2:5-11*

## **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS**

### **Can everyone heal the sick?**

- ▶ Yes! The Great Commission is for everyone and includes healing the sick

*Mark 16:18*

- ▶ The general and the specific ministry

*1 Corinthians 12:9*

### **Some helpful tips in order to have a more efficient healing ministry**

- ▶ Purity

*James 5:16*

- ▶ The Word

*Mark 16:20*

- ▶ The laying on of hands

*Mark 16:18*

- ▶ Anointing with oil

*Mark 6:13, James 5:14*

- ▶ Prayer cloths and clothes

*Matthew 14:36, Acts 19:11-12*

- ▶ Your level of faith - The Word, prayer and fasting, actions of obedience, and healing experiences will all cause your faith to rise.

## **START HEALING THE SICK!**

# PART 9

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE BELIEVERS

### INTRODUCTION

The Greek word *Koinónía/os* means: Fellowship of brothers, connection, relation, working together, or sympathizing help. *Acts 2:42, Philippians 4:15*

In the Old Testament, God commanded taking care of strangers, the fatherless, and widows. When the church was born, this became a natural part of the large family of the first Christians. The unity, care, hospitality, and sharing came as a spontaneous result of their love of Jesus. The first Christian fellowship was enormously intense!

### FELLOWSHIP IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ Jerusalem *Acts 1:13-14, 2:1,41-47, 4:23,32-35, 5:1-14, 6:1,7*
- ▶ Antioch in Syria *Acts 11:26-30, 13:1-3, 15:3*
- ▶ Ephesus *Acts 19:9-10, 20:7,11,35*
- ▶ Tyre, Ptolemais, Caesarea *Acts 21:3-4,7-8*
- ▶ Sidon *Acts 27:3*
- ▶ Rome and surroundings *Acts 28:14-16,30*

### KINDS OF FELLOWSHIP IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ Fellowship of Prayer *Acts 1:14, 2:1,42*
- ▶ Common Teaching *Acts 2:42, 19:9-10, 20:7-11*
- ▶ Unity *Acts 2:46, 4:32*
- ▶ Having Common Possessions *Acts 2:44-45, 4:32,34-35*
- ▶ Care *Acts 4:34-35, 6:1-3, 27:3*
- ▶ Collections *Acts 11:27-30*
- ▶ Equipment for journeys/help *Acts 13:1-3, 15:3*
- ▶ Hospitality *Acts 21:3-4,7-8, 28:30*

### TEACHING OF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS CONCERNING THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BELIEVERS

*Romans 12:8,13, 1 Corinthians 1:13, 9:4-14, 14:26, 2 Corinthians 9, Philippians 2:19-21, 4:14-18, Colossians 3:2-3,16, 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 1 Timothy 2:1-4,5:8-10, Hebrews 13:2, 1 Peter 4:9, 3 John 5-8*

## **PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS**

**Open up your home for:**

1. Prayer
2. Teaching
3. Care for the weak
4. Guests

**Let your opinions be formed by the word of God!**

Together with your fellow brothers and sisters, you will become "one heart and one soul" (true ecumenism).

**Transfer your:**

1. Economical assets
2. Possessions to the Lord

**Give generously of everything that you have!**

For example, possessions, spiritual gifts, clothes, food and money

**START SHARING WITH OTHERS!**



# PART 10

## ANGELS AND REVELATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

Both the Hebrew and the Greek words for “angel” mean messenger. Angels are mentioned about 300 times in the Bible. Angels were very active in the first church. Revelations and visitations by angels were perfectly natural for the first Christians.

#### Hierarchy of the Kingdom of God

*Colossians 1:16, Jude 1:9, Revelation 4-5*

#### Visitations of angels and revelations in the Old Testament

*Genesis 19:1, 31:11, Psalms 34:8, 91:11*

#### Visitations of angels in connection to the arrival of Jesus and His ministry on earth

*Matthew 1:20, 2:13,19 Mark 1:13, Luke 1:11,26, 2:9-15, 15:10, 22:43*

### VISITATIONS BY ANGELS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ Disciples on the Mount of Olives *Acts 1:10-11*
- ▶ Apostles in jail in Jerusalem *Acts 5:19-20*
- ▶ Philip in Samaria *Acts 8:26*
- ▶ Cornelius in Caesarea *Acts 10:3-8,30-33*
- ▶ Peter in Joppa *Acts 10:30-33*
- ▶ Peter in prison in Jerusalem *Acts 12:7-11,15*
- ▶ Herod in Caesarea *Acts 12:23*
- ▶ Paul on the Mediterranean *Acts 27:23-25*

### REVELATIONS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ Saul on the road to Damascus *Acts 9:3-9*
- ▶ Ananias in Damascus *Acts 9:10-16*
- ▶ Peter in Joppa *Acts 10:9-20*
- ▶ Paul in Troas *Acts 16:9-10*
- ▶ Paul in Corinth *Acts 18:9-10*
- ▶ Paul in Jerusalem *Acts 23:9,11*

## **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **Should we be actively looking for contact with angels?**

- ▶ No, the Bible gives no such examples *Colossians 2:18*
- ▶ We should be open and available for visitations, information, and help.

### **How many angels are there?**

An uncountable number *Revelation 5:11*

### **Do they have personalities?**

Yes, but no gender *Mark 12:25*

### **Are they a higher rank than us?**

No, they serve God primarily and then us *Hebrews 1:14*

### **Why are the angels interested in us?**

- ▶ They serve God and when we serve God, cooperation becomes natural.
- ▶ They are also sent to serve us, and they rejoice in their part of the realization of God's salvation plan. The Kingdom of God is to be increased and the angels constitute an enormous resource, which is activated when we pray to God. The angels are not retired! *Luke 15:10*

Let's pray to God according to His purposes and His plan, then He will send angels! *2 Kings 19:9-19, 35-36*

### **Are there personal "angels of protection"?**

Yes, according to the Jewish tradition *Acts 12:15*

## **START COOPERATING WITH THE ANGELS!**

# PART 11

## AUTHORITY OF THE WORD

### INTRODUCTION

The teaching and the lives of the first Christians were based upon nothing but the Old Testament and the letters of the apostles. However, the first church had the advantage of having teachers who had spent three years together with the Word Himself.

*John 1:1-5, 14*

#### The Creating Word of God

*Genesis 1, Psalm 33:6, Hebrews 11:3*

#### The Word Incarnated

*John 1:1-5,14, Hebrews 1:2-3, 1 John 1:1-2, Colossians 1:17,19,2:3,9*

#### The Written Word

*Acts 7:38, 2 Timothy 3:15-16, 2 Peter 1:19-21*

### THE WORD IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

*Acts 4:29-30, 5:20, 6:2, 4, 7 - Jerusalem*

*Acts 8:4, 14, 25 - Samaria*

*Acts 8:35 - On the road to Gaza*

*Acts 10:36, 43 - Caesarea*

*Acts 11:19 - Phoenicia, Cyprus*

*Acts 12:24 - After the death of Herod*

*Acts 13:5, 7 - Salamis on Cyprus*

*Acts 13:44, 46-49 - Antioch in Pisidia*

*Acts 14:3 - Iconium*

*Acts 14:25 - Perga*

*Acts 16:6 - The province of Asia*

*Acts 16:32 - Philippi*

*Acts 17:11, 13 - Berea and Antioch*

*Acts 18:11 - Corinth*

*Acts 19:10, 20, 20:32 - Ephesus*

*Acts 24:14 - Caesarea*

*Acts 28:23 - Rome*

### THE TRINITY AND THE PROCESS OF CREATION

- ▶ God the Father creates through... *Genesis 1:26, Hebrews 1:2-3*
- ▶ The Word, the Son, Jesus Christ
- ▶ The Holy Spirit is the power of the process of creation

## **PRACTICAL ADVICE**

### **Read, eat, and meditate on the Word!**

*Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 8:3, Ezekiel 3:1-3*

### **Speak the Word!**

*Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 1:8, 2 Peter 1:21*

### **Act according to the Word!**

*Matthew 7:24-27, James 1:21*

### **Preach the Word!**

*Romans 10:17, Philippians 1:14, 2 Timothy 4:2*

### **Keep the Word!**

*Proverbs 4:20-22, 1 John 2:5,14*

### **Saved through the Word**

*John 4:41, Romans 10:8-10*

### **Baptized in the Holy Spirit through the Word**

*Acts 10, Galatians 3:2*

### **Healed through the Word**

*Psalms 107:20, Matthew 8:3*

### **Delivered by the Word**

*Matthew 8:16*

### **Sanctified through the Word**

*John 15:3*

**START FILLING YOURSELF WITH THE WORD!**

# CHAPTER 12

## PRAYER AND FASTING

### INTRODUCTION

The first Christian fellowship with the Helper, the Holy Spirit, was just as natural as the earlier fellowship with the Master - Jesus - had been. Prayer was the natural way through which the disciples communicated with the Helper. Prayer was the way to breath, the source, and the key to everything that was done by the first Christians. Prayer and fasting is a way of living!

After baptism in water and in the Holy Spirit, Jesus fasted 40 days before He started His ministry on earth. The disciples did not fast as long as the bridegroom, Jesus, was among them. They did not do it until after His death and resurrection.

#### Jesus's Life of Prayer and Fasting

*Matthew 4:1-2, Luke 5:16, 6:12, Mark 9:29, Matthew 26:39, Luke 23:34,46*

#### Disciples' Life of Prayer and Fasting

*Luke 5:33-35, 11:1-13*

### PRAYER AND FASTING IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- ▶ Jerusalem *Acts 1:14,24, 2:42, 3:1, 4:24-31, 6:4,6, 7:59-60, 12:5,12, 22:17-21*
- ▶ Samaria *Acts 8:15*
- ▶ Damascus *Acts 9:9-16*
- ▶ Joppa *Acts 9:40, 10:9, 11:5*
- ▶ Caesarea *Acts 10:2,4*
- ▶ Antioch in Syria *Acts 13:1-3*
- ▶ Asia Minor *Acts 14:23*
- ▶ Philippi *Acts 16:13,25*
- ▶ Ephesus *Acts 20:36*
- ▶ Tyre *Acts 21:5*
- ▶ On the Mediterranean *Acts 27:35*
- ▶ Malta *Acts 28:8*

## FORMS OF PRAYER

- ▶ Personal prayer *Acts 9:9-16, 10:2,4,9, 11:5, 22:17-21*
- ▶ Common prayer *Acts 1:14, 2:42, 3:1, 4:24-31, 12:5,12, 20:36, 21:5*
- ▶ Intercession *Acts 8:15, 9:40, 28:8*
- ▶ Sanctifying prayer *Acts 1:24, 6:6, 13:1-3, 14:23*
- ▶ Worship and thanksgiving *Acts 16:25, 27:35*

## FORMS OF FASTING

- ▶ Partial fast *Daniel 1:12, 10:3*
- ▶ Total fast *Esther 4:16, Acts 9:9*
- ▶ Water fast
- ▶ One day fast *Judges 20:26*
- ▶ Three day fast *Ezra 8:15,21,23*
- ▶ Seven day fast *1 Samuel 31:13*
- ▶ Daniel Fast (21 days) *Daniel 10:2-3*
- ▶ Prophetical fast (40 days) *Matthew 4:2*
- ▶ Individual fast *Matthew 6:16-18*
- ▶ Common fast *Esther 4:3, Joel 1:14, John 3:7*

**START PRAYING AND FASTING!**

# PART 13

## THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FIRST CHURCH

### INTRODUCTION

Jesus, the son of God, came from well-organized leadership in heaven and gave us an excellent example of leadership and discipleship training on earth.

*Revelation 4-5, Philipians 2:5-11, Colossians 1:16*

### LEADERSHIP MODEL OF JESUS

- ▶ Jesus was the natural, anointed master and leader. *John 1:38-51*
- ▶ He surrounded himself with Peter, James, John, the inner circle *Mark 9:2-3*
- ▶ He chose and appointed twelve apostles *Luke 6:12-13*
- ▶ But also 72 others, which he sent out two by two *Luke 10:1*
- ▶ The Great Commission was addressed to all believers *Mark 16:17*

The leadership of Jesus was well organized, but nevertheless there were problems. As we know, Judas, one of the twelve, betrayed Him. The leadership was questioned, as well as disputed. Despite all this, I doubt that any honest Christian of today would dare to question the leadership-qualifications of the Master.

*Matthew 16:22-23, 21:23 Mark 9:33-37, 10:35-45*

### LEADERSHIP MODEL OF THE DISCIPLES

The leadership model of Jesus was, of course, copied by the first church in Jerusalem. As disciples and followers, they did everything to continue the Jesus revival in an organized way.

- ▶ Peter was the natural leader *Matthew 16:18, John 21:16, Acts 2:14, 5:29*
- ▶ Surrounded by the inner circle *Galatians 2:9*
- ▶ The disciples and the ministry gifts *Acts 15:2,22-23*
- ▶ Deacons and the gifts of help were installed *Acts 6:2-7*
- ▶ All the believers had a function *Acts 9:31*

### SCRIPTURES ABOUT LEADERSHIP

*Acts 1:13-15,26 2:14,42, 4:33-35, 5:12,29, 6:2,6, 12:17, 13:1-3, 14:23, 15:2,22-23, 20:28-30, 21:17-18, 28:15*

## **MINISTRY GIFTS AND GIFTS OF HELPING**

The church in the New Testament was built by church-leaders and church-servants (Greek: presbyteros and diakonos).

1. Church-leaders, ministry gifts *1 Corinthians 12:27-28, Ephesians 4:8-16, 2 Timothy 1:11*
2. Church-servants *Romans 12:4-10, 1 Timothy 3:12-13*

## **QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP**

Paul, as well as Peter, gave careful instructions concerning the qualifications of ministry gifts and gifts of helping.

*1 Timothy 3:1-16, 5:17-19, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-6*

## **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS**

### **How does someone become a leader?**

Those that God has called are confirmed and sanctified by fasting and prayer.  
*Acts 14:23*

### **Who is a leader?**

The natural (in a spiritual sense) leaders who are called and equipped by God. They must have the leadership qualifications as stated above and bear spiritual fruit, which will confirm the ministry. It is important that a leader is confirmed and ordained before entering his task.

### **Can leadership be questioned and removed?**

God and the Bible stand above all earthly leadership, and therefore leadership can be tested in relation to the Word of God. It is possible for a leader to forfeit their qualifications by falling in different areas. After repentance and confession, it is possible to receive new confidence and a new commission. However, a spiritual leader cannot be questioned or removed on any other grounds than direct rebellion against the Word of God.

*Hosea 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 19-22*

## **START PRAYING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP!**



# PART 14

## NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### INTRODUCTION

**Every person is a gift from God!**

*Genesis 2:22, Romans 12:5, Ephesians 4:8-15*

**You are a gift with untapped potential**

*1 Corinthians 12:11*

**Through salvation we receive the largest gift: Jesus!**

*John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8, Colossians 1:19,27, 2:3,9*

### NATURAL GIFTS

There are three sources of power which we can use our gifts under or through:

1. The Power of God
2. The Power of Satan
3. Human (Mental) Power

Your gifts will be claimed by one of these authorities. It is up to you to decide for which purposes you are using your gifts.

#### Talents, Abilities, Interests

*Romans 12:1-8*

- ▶ Musical gifts *1 Chronicles 16:4-7*
- ▶ Artistic talents *Exodus 31:1-5*
- ▶ Administrative thinking

These are a few examples of practical and abstract talents and gifts. Of course there are uncountable natural gifts.

#### Calling and Ministry Gifts

*Jeremiah 1:5, Romans 12:7-8, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11*

All callings are spiritual if we devote them to God. Kjell Sjöberg, a world champion ski jumper said, “The gift or calling from birth is the raw material that must be saved, purified, sanctified and devoted to the Lord.”

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**The abilities of the Holy Spirit are called spiritual gifts**

*John 14:16-17, 26, 1 John 2:20, 27*

**Spiritual gifts can not be received until after salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit**

*Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 12:7*

## **Paul gave examples of the spiritual gifts**

*Romans 12:6–8, 1 Corinthians 12:8–10*

There are more spiritual gifts than mentioned in these verses. One example is the interpretation of dreams in *Daniel 1:17, 2:23*.

Natural gifts are connected to the calling, ministry gifts, and spiritual gifts in a very strong combination. Together with our brothers and sisters in the church, the body of Christ becomes complete.

*Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, 1 Peter 2:4-10*

## **FUNCTION OF GIFTS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

1. Natural Gifts *Acts 4:34-37, 6:1-7, 9:36, 39, 18:3, 19:22*
2. Calling and Ministry Gifts *Acts 13:1-3, 14:23, 15:22*
3. Spiritual Gifts *Acts 13:8-12, 16:16-18, 21:10-11*

## **PRACTICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DISCOVERY OF GIFTS**

### **What are my limitations?**

We are under Jesus and connect to each other in the body of Christ

*Ephesians 4:7, 16*

### **What should be the result of my gifts in action?**

All recognition and praise goes to God through Jesus *1 Peter 4:11*

### **Are my gifts evident to others?**

Your true gifts will be recognized by other believers *Acts 16:1-3*

### **How do you know if you're doing the right thing?**

When you do what God commands, you will see Him move *Ezekiel 37:7*

## **PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE DISCOVERY OF GIFTS**

### **Sanctify and bless others when their gift is discovered!**

*Romans 1:1, 11, Acts 13:2-3*

### **Give advice to others from the Word of God and your own experience of developing gifts in the ministry!**

*1 Timothy 4:14*

## **START SERVING GOD WITH YOUR GIFTS!**

# PART 15

## EVANGELISM

### INTRODUCTION

The first church did not work by methods of evangelism or according to models of church growth or well-tested methods from other fields of revival. Every step and every move was new. Every move was a new spiritual adventure. The first Christians were neither charismatic robots, nor religious cows stuck up to their bellies in dung. They always did that which they had never done before. Sometimes, they failed but their wish was always to be sovereignly led by the Holy Spirit. They had an enormous inventiveness and people were saved by the thousands.

- ▶ The multiplicity of God *Hebrews 1:1-3*
- ▶ The multiplicity of Jesus *John 21:25*
- ▶ The multiplicity of the Holy Spirit *Acts 1:8*

### DIVERSITY OF EVANGELISM

There were various ways in which the Good News reached the hearts of the people. The ways were natural and spontaneous, born out of zeal to spread the Kingdom of God. The first Christians were fully occupied in increasing the Kingdom of God (they thought “thoughts of the Kingdom”). They were waiting and precipitating the return of King Jesus to Jerusalem. They were not driven by any shrewd strategies, but by their love for Jesus. They became channels for the Holy Spirit.

#### People were saved by:

- ▶ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit *Acts 2:1-13, 37-41*
- ▶ Key wonders *Acts 3-4:4, 9:32-42*
- ▶ Healing explosions *Acts 5:12-16*
- ▶ The right person in the right place *Acts 6:1, 7*
- ▶ Crusades *Acts 8:5-13*
- ▶ Person to person *Acts 8:26-39*
- ▶ The glory of God *Acts 9:3-18*
- ▶ Visitations by angels and revelations *Acts 10:1-6, 9-20*
- ▶ Gifts of power *Acts 13:6-12*
- ▶ Teaching *Acts 13:43*
- ▶ Preaching *Acts 14:1*
- ▶ Dialogue *Acts 16:13-15*
- ▶ Worship *Acts 16:25-34*

- ▶ Conviction *Acts 17:2-4*
- ▶ Public meetings, street evangelism *Acts 17:17*
- ▶ Seminars *Acts 17:22-34*
- ▶ Discussions in religious centers *Acts 18:4*
- ▶ Trials *Acts 23-26*
- ▶ Open homes *Acts 28:30-31*

## **MOTIVATION FOR EVANGELISM**

- ▶ Love for Jesus *John 3:16, Titus 3:4-6*
- ▶ Love for people *Mark 12:28-31, 1 John 4:19*
- ▶ Perspective of the Kingdom of God *Matthew 9:35, 11:12*

## **PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS**

**Be natural, be yourself, and make the most of every opportunity**

*Colossians 4:5-6, 2 Timothy 4:2*

**Dare to think in new, fresh, and different ways**

*Romans 12:2*

**Listen to the Holy Spirit**

*Galatians 5:16, 18, 25*

**START FISHING FOR PEOPLE!**

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Johannes Amritzer is an evangelist, Bible teacher and the founder of Evangelical Mission SOS International, a pentecostal crusade mission focusing on the unreached people groups in the world. Evangelical Mission SOS International arranges crusade campaigns and pastor seminars all over the world. The organization emphasizes the follow-up of the newly saved and the raising of disciples.

Therefore, the teaching about the restoration of the first church, practical discipleship with the eschatological truths about the second coming of Jesus, and the end of the church age becomes natural motivation forces in the harvest-work of the end times. Johannes travels as an evangelist and Bible teacher both nationally and internationally.

