

Preacher, What Shall You Do?

“And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”
(Acts 9:6).

Robert Boyd in the *World's Bible Handbook* refers to Acts as “The Book of Christian Action.” This is an appropriate title since it contains the acts of the Apostles or at least some of them. (The acts of eight apostles are not referred to in the book.) It also includes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the planting and growth of Christianity and Christian churches, and the spreading of the gospel to the world.

Acts records how the early believers, empowered by the Spirit, continued to do what Jesus began to do and teach.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 29:20).

Boyd believes that four words summarize the book of Acts:

- Power
- Preaching
- Persecution
- Progress

The Apostles acted on these four words and closely followed what Jesus had taught them. Consider the story of Tabitha (Dorcas) found in Acts 9.

Like Teacher, Like Student

“But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive” (Acts 9:40-41).

The *Life Application Bible Commentary (Acts)* mentions this story is similar to when Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:35-43). Peter was a good student.

Like Jesus, Peter asked everyone to leave the room.

Peter commanded, “Tabitha, cumi” (Tabitha, arise!). Jesus had said “Talitha, cumi” (little girl, Arise!). There is a difference in only one letter.

Peter and others continued doing what their Master had taught them. They were not merely hearers of the Word, but doers.

In Acts we see the great commission put into practice as believers "...were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4).

Early believers can be described as men and women of action.

- "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).
- "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).
- "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).
- "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).
- "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

In this lesson we will look at some of the actions of the early preachers (and believers). The Word of God will speak for itself. Only a few comments will be added. Are you ready for action?

Let us begin in the preacher's prayer closet. Remember, preacher, you are what you are in your prayer closet—no more, no less.

"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Pray.
- Minister the Word.

Having established the preacher's priorities let us move on to his altar of sacrifice.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Present your bodies a living sacrifice.
- Be not conformed to this world.
 - Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
 - Prove what is that good, acceptable, perfect will of God.

We will check the preacher's personal life before looking at his public ministry.

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14)

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

“To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints” (1 Thessalonians 3:13-4:1).

“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness” (1 Thessalonians 4:7).

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:12-13).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Follow peace with all men.
- Live a life of holiness.
- Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
- Live soberly, righteously, and godly.
- Look for the blessed hope.

“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (1 Corinthians 6:18-7:1).

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22).

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Flee fornication.
- Flee youthful lusts.
- Follow righteousness.
- Submit to God.
- Resist the devil.

“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Fear God.
- Walk in His ways.
- Love God.
- Serve Him with all your heart.
- Keep His commandments.

“Moses’ words comprise an excellent mission statement for every believer, and Jesus provides us the model to follow as we get to know God. We can return to them again and again as we evaluate our lives. They form the basis for our relationship with God” (*The Knowing Jesus Study Bible*).

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:2).

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15).

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Give God glory.
- Worship Him.
- Offer the sacrifice of praise.
- Give thanks to His name.
- Show forth praises.

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).

Preachers are not exempted from things expected of all believers.

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Pay your tithes.
- Give

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Why study the Word, preacher?

- To be a workman.
- To keep from being ashamed.
- To rightly divide the word of truth.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

What should you do with the Word, preacher?

Preach it!

Use it for:

- Doctrine.
- Reproof.
- Correction.
- Instruction in the righteousness.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Preach the Word.
- Reprove.
- Rebuke.
- Exhort (with all longsuffering and doctrine).

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and

recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Preach the gospel to the poor.
- Heal the brokenhearted.
- Preach deliverance to the captives.
- Heal the blind.
- Set at liberty the bruised.

Preacher, how you walk is as important as how you preach.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

“Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:3).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Live in the Spirit.
- Walk in the Spirit.

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:14-22).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Warn the unruly.
- Comfort the feebleminded.
- Support the weak.
- Be patient.
- Follow good.
- Rejoice evermore.
- Pray without ceasing.
- Give thanks in everything.
- Quench not the Spirit.
- Despise not prophesying.
- Abstain from all appearance of evil.

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Help build His church.

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases” (Luke 9:1).

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Have authority over all devils.
- Cure diseases.
- Preach the kingdom of God.
- Heal the sick.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen” (Mark 16:15-20).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Go into all the world.
- Preach the gospel to every creature.
- Cast out devils.
- Speak in new tongues.
- Lay hands on the sick.
- Go forth.
- Preach everywhere.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Go.
- Teach all nations.
- Baptize them.
- Teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded.

“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalms 126:6).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Go forth.
- Weep.
- Bear precious seed.
- Come again with rejoicing bringing your harvest with you.

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” (Daniel 11:32).

Preacher, what shall you do?

- Be strong
- Do exploits

Preacher, be a man of action. God will back you with His power and authority. Use God’s power to do great things for Him.

Study Questions

1. How does Robert Boyd refer to the Book of Acts? _____

2. What four words summarize the Book of Acts? _____

3. How was the Great Commission put into practice in Acts? _____

4. In Acts, what did Peter and the other Apostles continue to do? _____

5. Write out Romans 12:1-2. _____

6. What are preachers to do according to Hebrews 12:14? _____

7. What are we supposed to do according to 2 Corinthians 7:1? _____

8. What does the grace of God teach us? _____

9. What should we flee (1 Corinthians 6:18 – 7:1)? _____

10. Write out Moses' words that serve as an excellent mission statement. _____

11. What does Luke 6:38 tell us to do? _____

12. What does Malachi 3:10 instruct us to do? _____

13. What does 2 Timothy 2:15 tell us to do? _____

14. What are we called in 2 Timothy 2:15? _____

15. What is the Word of God used for according to 2 Timothy 3:16? _____

16. What are we told to do in Luke 4:18-19? _____

17. What are we told to do in Galatians 5:25? _____

18. What are some things we are to do according to 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22? _____

19. What signs follow those who believe? _____

20. What should we abstain from according to 1 Thessalonians 5:22? _____

21. What do those that know their God do according to Daniel 11:32? _____
