



Vision: An Acts Church for Today

Gospel Light Christian Church looks forward to being "An Acts Church for Today."
This means that the early Church in the Book of Acts is our model.
They were a people who demonstrated these values:

1. Centred on the Saviour

The Church in the Book of Acts was centred on Jesus Christ. This means firstly, Jesus was their **message**. The Gospel of Jesus- His death and His resurrection to save us from our sins- was what they proclaimed. Secondly, Jesus was their **motivation**. He was the reason for all that they did. They were bold and were even willing to die for Jesus. They were also united in spite of deep historical and racial differences because of Jesus. Thirdly, Jesus was also their **model** as they served one another graciously.

2. Filled with the Spirit

When you read through the Book of Acts, you cannot miss the Church's dependence on the Holy Spirit in all that they did. They were controlled and empowered by the Spirit to speak boldly (Acts 4:31). The Spirit also gave them specific instructions (Acts 16:7) and led them to confront falsehood (Acts 13:9).

3. Rooted in the Scriptures

The believers in the Acts church were devoted to the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42). Believers received the Word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so (Acts 17:11). The apostles used Scriptures to reason with the people (Acts 17:2-3). Apostle Paul in his parting message to the Ephesian elders emphasised the need to declare the whole counsel of Scriptures. This is vital to discern falsehood and false teachers. It is also for the building up of the church (Acts 20:27-32).

4. Faithful in Supplication

Prayer was constant throughout the Book of Acts - in fact, every chapter contains a mention of prayer. Whether it is corporate or individual prayer, the book of Acts described the early Church as steadfast (Acts 2:42) and constant (Acts 12:5) in prayer. The apostles asked the church to appoint deacons to minister to the believers so that they could "give themselves continually to prayers" (Acts 6:4). To be the Acts church of today, we need to be faithful in our supplication.

5. Genuine in Sacrifice

The Acts Church was sacrificial in helping one another (Acts 2:44-45). They sold all that they had willingly and happily to share with those in need (Acts 2:45-46, Acts 4:34-37).

6. Effective in Soul-winning

The church in Acts was effective in soul winning (Acts 5:42, 6:7). People were saved on a daily basis (Acts 2:47, 5:14). The believers who were scattered were evangelising wherever they went (Acts 8:1, 4)! So, they were preaching everyday and everywhere. This is possible only because of the ministry of the Holy Spirit through them- in giving them boldness and guidance, and causing conviction in the listeners.

7. Joyful in Suffering

The church in the Book of Acts was a persecuted church. They were attacked for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what Jesus had warned of in John 15. The disciples however were not discouraged, but they were joyful in suffering (Acts 5:41).



Mission: Leading Generations into a Life-changing Relationship with Jesus Christ

To arrive at our vision of being “An Acts Church for Today,” we must be fulfilling our mission of “Leading Generations into a Life-changing Relationship with Jesus Christ”.

There are 3 essential principles in our mission:

1) Life-change

Our aim is life-change. We want to help people with transformation, not just information. This is not about a superficial change of behaviour alone, but a transformation from the inside out, to become more like Jesus- in character, knowledge, skills and vision.

To put it in another way, we want to help people KNOW. GROW. GO.

To “KNOW” Christ refers to salvation. To “GROW” in Christ refers to sanctification. To “GO” for Christ refers to service.

In order to do so, we must help people with applying truth in gospel communities (eg. care groups and discipleship groups), and not just acquiring truth from sermons and classes.

2) Leadership

We cannot change lives. Only Jesus can. But we can lead people to Jesus so that their lives can be changed. Each of us is to be leading people to Jesus- as parents, friends, colleagues, neighbours and schoolmates. The church ministries must also be leading people to Jesus.

The story of the paralysed man and his four friends demonstrates what this means. The four friends could not change his life. Only Jesus could. But the four friends led him to Jesus for forgiveness and healing. The four friends are a picture of the church. They were compassionate, committed, concerted and creative in leading their friend to Jesus.

3) Legacy

The Great Commission is unto the end of the age. We must have a long-term vision for ministry. Thus we seek to reach the next generation in such a way that they will also reach their next generation.

Moreover, the church is to make disciples of all people across the generations. We do not “specialise” in reaching out to a specific demographic. We also labour towards reaching different people groups unto the ends of the world. We rejoice in how the Gospel brings about unity in such a diverse and multi-generational church.