



ACTIVE EVANGELISM

Putting the evangelism of Acts into practice

Includes study questions to apply the
lessons of ACTS to your church

DEREK PRIME



CHRISTIAN
FOCUS





This book was first published in 1991 by Scripture Union with the title *DRAWING POWER*, as part of a series entitled *Word for Today*. It has now been revised and questions for thought or group discussion have been added, together with a *Question and Answer on Evangelism*.

Scripture quotations in this publication are from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, by International Bible Society. Published by Hodder and Stoughton.



© Derek Prime 2003



ISBN 978-1-85792-880-8

Published in 2003

Reprinted 2008

by

Christian Focus Publications Ltd.,
Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-shire,
IV20 1TW, Scotland, UK

www.christianfocus.com

Cover Design by Alister MacInnes

Printed and bound by

Cox & Wyman, Reading Berkshire

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying. In the U.K. such licences are issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London, EC1 8TS www.cla.co.uk.





INTRODUCTION



When I purchased my first computer it was not long before I wondered if I had done the right thing. It all seemed so complicated! I began to think that I proved the truth of the old adage that it is hard for an old dog to learn new tricks!

I consulted the manual, of course, that came with the software I was using. But I was still daunted. What finally helped me make sense of the instructions were the *examples* at the end of the book. As I worked through them, I saw what the manual was really getting at and, gradually, everything fitted into place.

The Acts of the Apostles is not a manual on evangelism. Luke, its writer, does not set out to explain what evangelism is or the principles by which it is to be carried out. The New Testament letters do that. But the Acts does give us an enormous variety of examples that show how evangelism is worked out in practice. As we look at the examples, we will find that the principles of evangelism taught elsewhere in the New Testament fit into place.





ACTIVE EVANGELISM

The book itself is the second half of Luke's account of Jesus' work – begun by Him in person (described in Luke's Gospel) then continued by Him through His Spirit in the Church (described in Acts). In his Gospel Luke tells us 'all that Jesus began to do and to teach', and in the Acts he describes all He continued – and continues – to do through His Church (Acts 1:1).

Luke challenges us to remember two things in particular:

- the basic simplicity of the gospel message: it is all about Jesus Christ and salvation – the salvation that Jesus' death and resurrection have secured. God's command to all men and women everywhere is to repent and believe the good news. While much more can be said, that is the essence of the message. No matter how sophisticated society appears, its need of salvation remains the same.
- the relevance of the gospel to literally everyone. In the Acts it is preached to both Jews and to Gentiles, whether king, governor, prison officer, soldier or business executive. No one is beyond the scope of God's saving purposes.

I hope that finding out about evangelism from Acts will fire you – as it has me – with fresh enthusiasm for sharing the good news about Jesus, the Son of God, the only Saviour. That is clearly one of the reasons why God the Holy Spirit has given us the book.

