

# Week 5 Acts of the Apostles

## 1. Lecture Overview

- 1) The Book of Acts is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke, beginning with the ascension of the resurrected Jesus after He promises the Holy Spirit to His disciples.
- 2) It records the birth and expansion of the early church and traces the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome, highlighting the work of the Holy Spirit and the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul.

## 2. Objectives

- 1) Understand the structure and narrative flow of Acts.
- 2) Analyze the relationship between the work of the Holy Spirit and church growth.
- 3) Learn Paul's missionary strategies and gospel proclamation methods.
- 4) Reflect on the essence of the early church and apply it to the contemporary church.

## 3. Key Topics

- 1) The Birth of the Church in Jerusalem (Acts 1–7)
- 2) The Persecution and Scattering after Stephen's Martyrdom (Acts 8–12)
- 3) Paul's Three Missionary Journeys (Acts 13–21)
- 4) Paul's Arrest and Journey to Rome (Acts 22–28)
- 5) The Role of the Holy Spirit and Formation of the Church Community

## 4. Theological Highlights

- 1) Pentecost (Acts 2): The defining event marking the birth of the church.
- 2) Foundations of Pauline Theology:  
Paul as the apostle to both Jews and Gentiles, proclaiming the same gospel.
- 3) Expansion of the Gospel:  
The fulfillment of Jesus' command, "You will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

## 5. Application

- 1) How can the modern church continue the mission of the early church?
- 2) What principles from Paul's mission strategies can be applied to today's evangelism and pastoral ministry?