





ACTS:

The Gospel's Spirit-Empowered Journey

Haverim | Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

Then Philip opened his mouth, and **beginning with this Scripture** he told him the **good news about Jesus**....and when they came up out of the water, the **Spirit of the Lord** carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and **he went on his way rejoicing.**

Acts 8: 35-39

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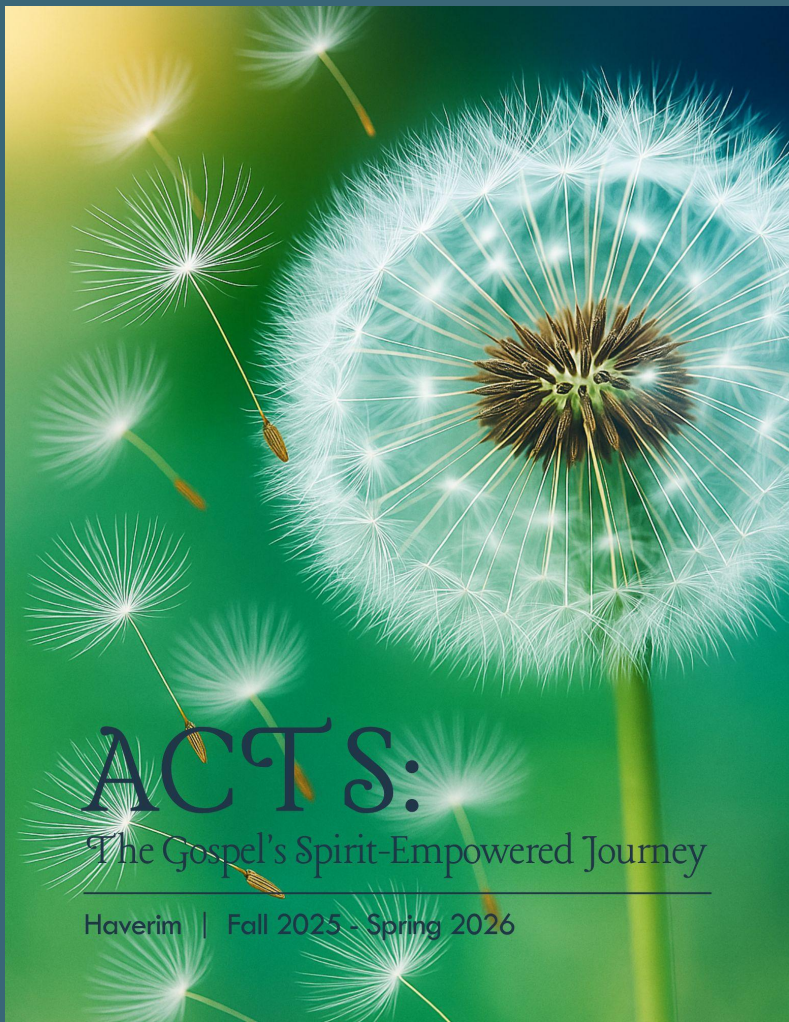
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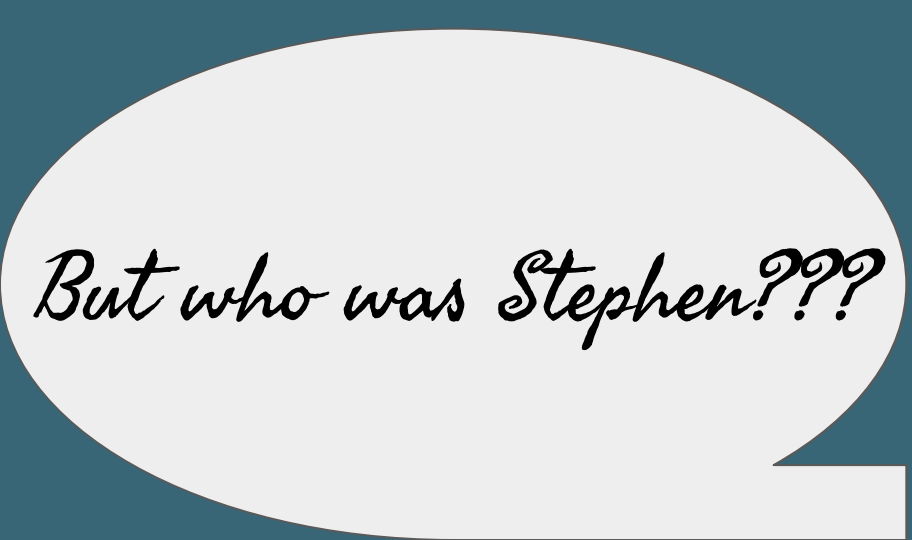
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Acts 7-8 Key Events

- Stephen's speech before the council & subsequent stoning
- Philip journeys to Samaria & encounters Simon the Magician
- Philip journeys to Gaza & encounters the Ethiopian Eunuch



But who was Stephen???

- One of the 7 deacons selected in Acts 6 after the dispute regarding the widows
- A Hellenist or Greek-speaking Jew
- Of good repute, full of the Spirit, wise
- Full of grace & power; performing signs & wonders



The Thread of God's Faithfulness...



Stephen's Indictments with OT References

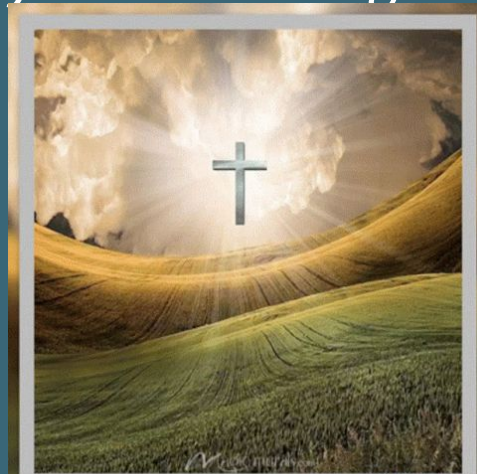
- Acts 7:39...*Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt, (Ex. 16:3; Num. 11:4, 5; 14:3, 4; Ezek. 20:8, 24)*
- Acts 7:41...*And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. (Ex. 32:4-6, 35; Deut. 9:16; Ps. 106:19)*
- Acts 7:43...*You took up the tent of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan, the images that you made to worship; and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.'* (1 Kgs. 11:7)
- Acts 7:48...*Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, (1 Kgs. 8:27; 2 Chr. 2:6)*
- Acts 7:51...*You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (Deut. 10:16; Ex. 32:9; Lev. 26:41; Jer. 6:10; 9:26; Ezek. 44:7, 9; Mal. 3:7)*
- Acts 7:52...*Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered... (1 Kgs. 19:10; 2 Chr. 36:16; Jer. 2:30)*

The Council's Response

Acts 7:54 *Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him...*

Stephen's Response

Acts 7:55 *He, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*



*Tell me
something
good!!!*



A close-up photograph of a dandelion seed head. The seed head is in the center, with its brown, fuzzy center and white, feathery seeds. Several seeds are shown in motion, blowing away from the head, creating a sense of dispersal. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The word "ACTS" is written in a large, dark blue, serif font in the bottom left corner of the image.

Scattered...

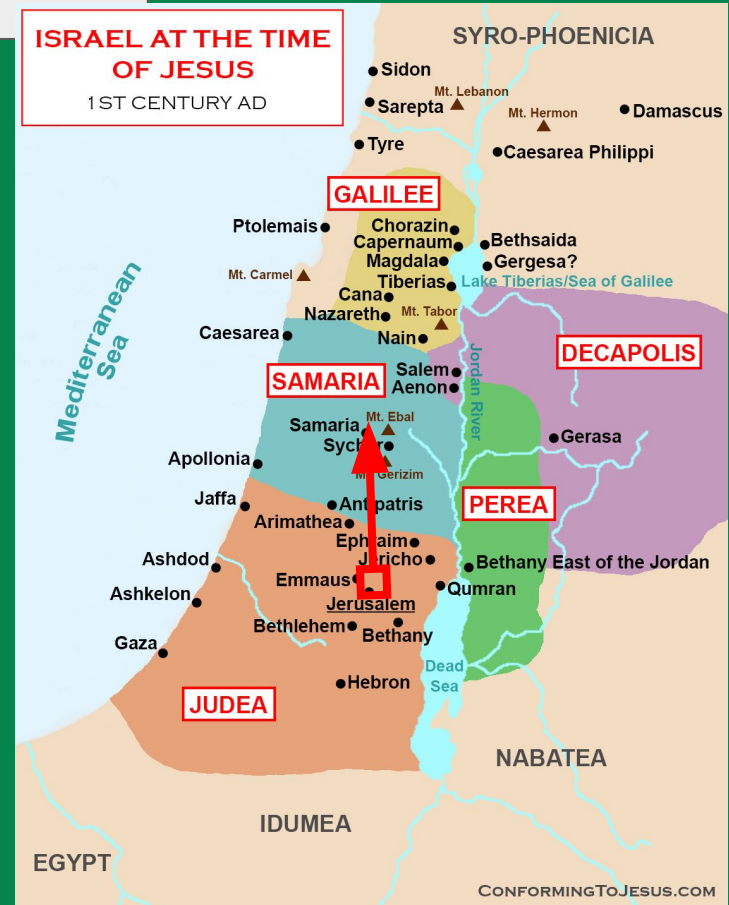
Acts 8:4 *Now those who were scattered went about teaching the word.*

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem & in all Judea & Samaria...*

Philip Takes the Good News to Samaria

Who were the Samaritans?

- When Israel split into 2 kingdoms, they were part of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)
- Judah was the Southern Kingdom
- Different Torah
- Worshipped at Mt. Gerizim rather than Jerusalem
- History of animosity with Jews

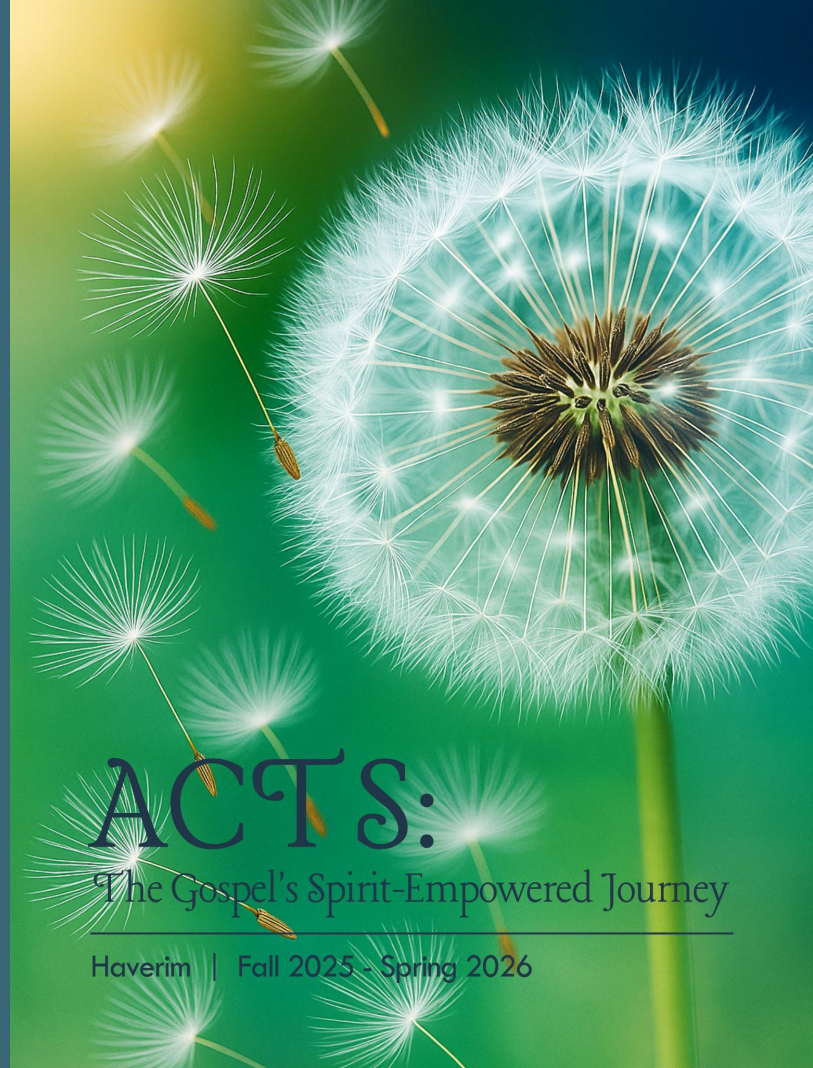


Miracles → Jesus

Magic → Self



Miracles were
used for blessing



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Philip Takes the Good News to Gaza

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem & in all Judea & Samaria...

...and to the end of the earth.



Isaiah 53

Isaiah 53:5, 12b...But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and we are healed...yet he bore and makes intercession for

Isaiah 53:1...Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

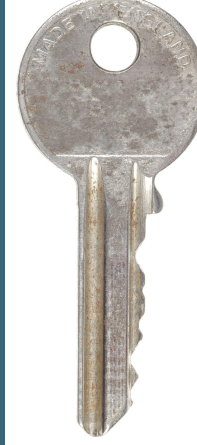


Beautiful Feet...

*Romans 10:14-17...And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? **And how are they to hear without someone preaching?** And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, **"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.***

ACTS

Key Themes

- Start with Scripture
 - 1 Peter 3:15
 - Luke 6:45
 - Joy Follows Jesus
 - Luke 2:11-12
 - Humble Obedience is the Key!
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
- 

Trust & Obey!

The Bottom Line?

Trust in the Lord Jesus & Obey
what the Holy Spirit tells you to do!

Why???

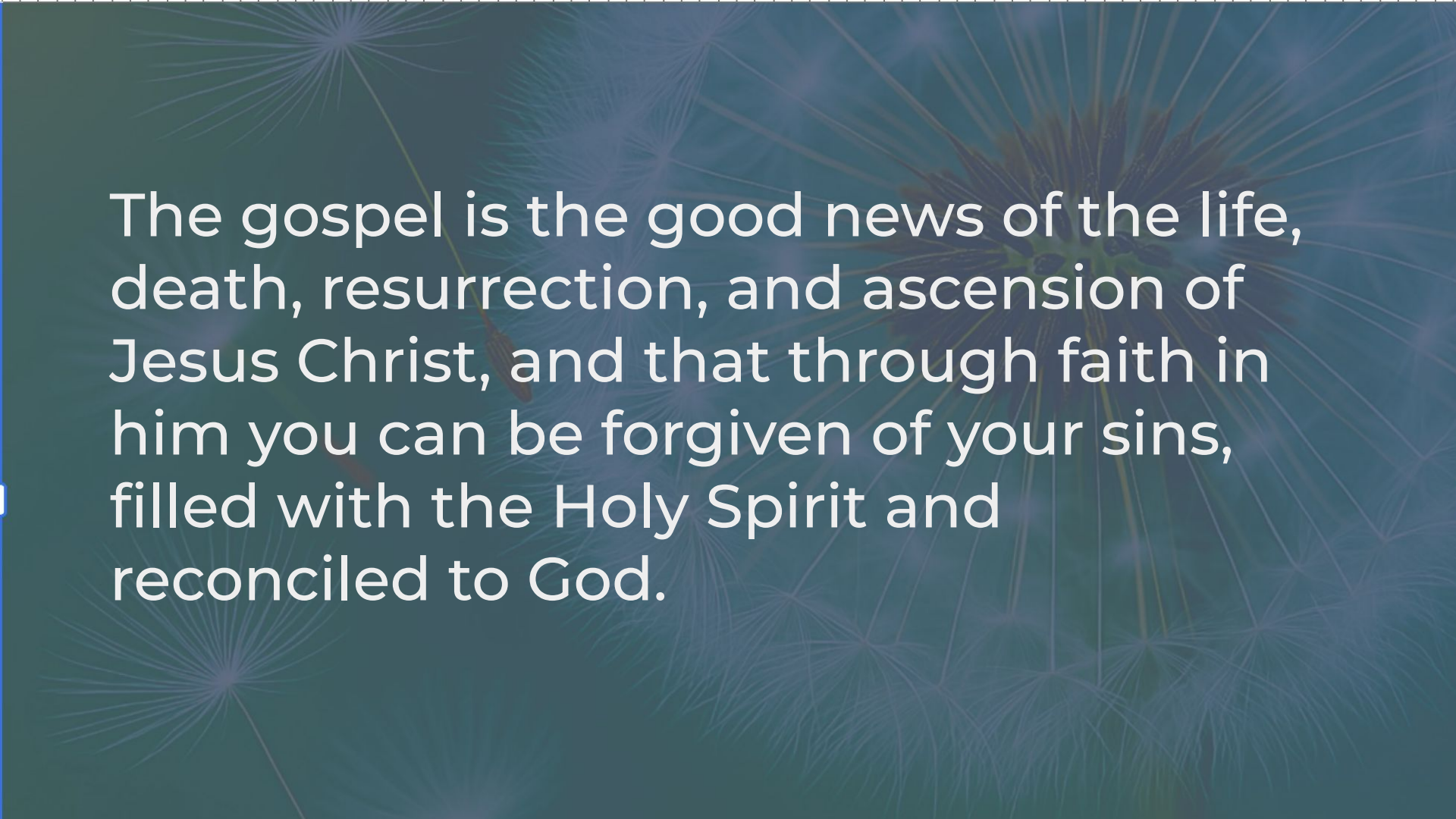
Because practicing obedience allows
us to grow in spiritual maturity.



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The background of the slide features a close-up, artistic photograph of several dandelion seed heads. The seeds are fine and radiate from central points, creating a starburst effect. The overall color palette is a muted, dark teal or slate blue, which provides a soft contrast for the white text.

The gospel is the good news of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and that through faith in him you can be forgiven of your sins, filled with the Holy Spirit and reconciled to God.