

## Acts Chapter 15: The Jerusalem Counsel

Overview of the Great Commission, Acts and Jesus building His Church.

**Acts 1:8** <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Acts 1:1** “In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach”

*In the book of Acts we are seeing what Jesus is doing through the Church. Those people who have His Spirit.*

*Now the focus has been on since Gentiles can be Christians, what do they have to do?*

*Men came teaching “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved”*

*This is a reminder that God brings about a clash or friction or controversy in the Church to bring growth. We looked at that in previous chapters, but you can see that throughout all a Scripture.*

*Paul and Barnabas opposed with doctrinal issues that would have necessary ramifications in the life of the Church.*

*Works to get to Grace. Grace to get to works.*

*In Jerusalem, Peter explains that what we saw in Chapter 10 at Cornelius’ house was a proof that*

1) they don’t need to be circumcised because God gave them the Holy Spirit JUST as He had fallen on them in Acts 2 at Pentecost, and

2) that by faith their hearts were cleansed and were saved “through the grace of the Lord Jesus”

**Ephesians 2:4-10** “<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

*True grace results in true humility. You will have nothing but gratitude.*

*If we are saved by grace, then why does the Jerusalem counsel tell them to do works?*

*If we have received grace correctly we understand our obligation towards righteousness.*

**Romans 6:18** “having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.”