

Key words in Acts

Spirit: Greek to *pneuma* - 2:4; 5:9; 8:39; 10:19; 11:12; 16:7; 19:21; 23:9 - derived from the verb *pneuo*, meaning “to breathe” or “to blow.” It is sometimes used to refer to the wind and sometimes to life itself (see John 3:8; Rev 13:15). It can refer to the life of angels (Heb 1:14), demons (Luke 4:33), and human beings (7:59). Yet this word is also used for the Spirit of God (see 1 Cor 2:11), that is, the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19), the third Person of the Trinity, the One who lives inside believers (see James 4:5; 1 John 4:13). This same Spirit is called “the Spirit of Jesus Christ” (Phil 1:19); manuscripts have the title the Spirit of Jesus in 16:7. This title emphasizes the unity of action between Jesus and the Spirit that permeates this book and its companion volume, the gospel of Luke. During the days of Jesus’ earthly ministry, the disciples were directed by Jesus; how after His resurrection and ascension, by the Spirit of Jesus.

Grace: Greek *charis* — 4:33; 11:23; 13:43; 14:26; 15:11; 18:27; 20:32 — probably equivalent to the Hebrew word *chesed*, meaning “loving kindness,” a word frequently used by the psalmists to describe God’s character. In the New Testament, the word *charis* usually signifies divine favor or goodwill, but it also means “that which gives joy” and “that which is a free gift.” This is a noteworthy occurrence of the word *grace* because while it was one of Paul’s favorite words for God’s free gift of salvation, here we see Luke using it in the same way.

Together: Greek *epi to auto* — an expression meaning “toward the same thing” or “in the same place”; it conveys the idea of united purpose or collective unity. In the early church it acquired a special meaning, indicating the union of the Christian body. All the members of the church not only gathered together regularly, but they also shared all things in common and were committed to each other and Christ with united fervor.