



## Sermon Notes

**Term** – Autumn 2020

**Series** – Acts: manual for a scattered church

**Gathering & Date** – 11.00 livestream, 20 September

**Title** – What does 'success' look like?

**Preacher** – Paul Langham

**Reading** – Acts 1:1-8

### **Main points** –

There were 50 days between Passover (Easter) and Pentecost. For 40 of them, the risen Jesus was with his disciples, teaching them about the Kingdom of God.

He gave them 2 simple instructions: 'Wait' ... and ... 'Go'

What they were to **wait** for was what would enable them to **go**: the infilling of the Holy Spirit

In Acts 2 – 7, we see a few simple patterns established

- A supernatural event draws a crowd and provides a platform for witness to Jesus
- The message is both received (by some) and rejected (by others)

In Acts 6, Stephen is appointed to an administrative role: but performs 'great wonders and signs' and his proclamation of the gospel is powerful. Note that it wasn't just the apostles who performed wonders and proclaimed the good news. Today, it isn't just the clergy or the staff team ... the Holy Spirit longs to empower every believer ...

In Acts, success is not found in the numbers of converts, nor in the quality of the early church's life, nor even in the signs and wonders. It's found in the spread of the gospel and the growth of the Kingdom. The dynamic movement of God's presence and blessing is always outwards, from his people to those not yet his people ... and always has been:

*I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.  
Isaiah 49:6*

### **For further thought and prayer** –

What is your experience of your witness being both received (by some) and rejected (by others)?

What difference would supernatural events such as those recorded in the book of Acts make to your witness?

What do you think success should look like for a church or a small community?

How can you integrate the simple instruction of Jesus into your daily life and that of your small community ... wait ... be filled ... go?

