

*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

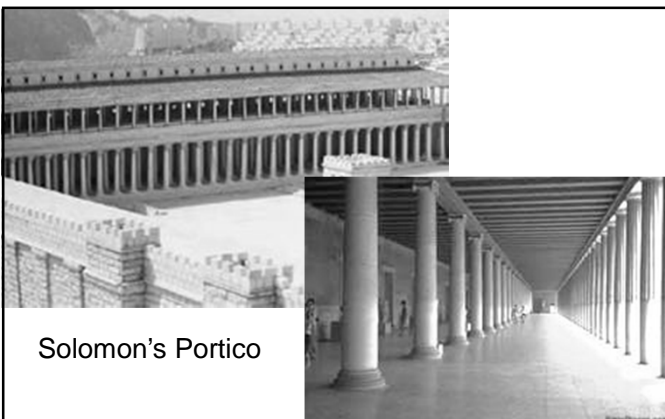
¹² At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. ¹³ But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*, ¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶ Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

(Acts 5:12-18)

*Fear, Faith & Hostility

Acts 5:12-18



Solomon's Portico

Effects

1. Fear

- the non-Christians feared to associate with the community of believers
- they feared the demonstration of God's power and holiness in this community

This was a healthy characteristic of the church

Effects

2. Faith

- the church grew by multitudes of men and women who believed in Jesus
- the church grew by conversion (faith in Jesus) not merely by attraction

Effects

Lesson:

- *the holiness and fearfulness of the church is not a hindrance to biblical church growth but the fertile soil out of which God gives growth*

Effects

➤ *Role of Signs and Wonders*

- they served to authenticate the message that Jesus is the exalted Messiah who alone grants forgiveness and salvation
- signs and wonders are not saving in themselves but bear testimony to the word of salvation (c.f. Acts 14:3)

Effects

3. Hostility

- even extraordinary displays of miracles did not prevent opposition and hostility
- the gospel is not neutral – its implications for life are radical and potentially threatening