

**Reading Response:**  
**The Charismatic Structure of Acts**

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Th 231 The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

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January 12, 2017

“The Charismatic Structure of Acts,” an essay by John Thomas was a breakdown and presentation of the multiplicity of structures of Acts by different scholars. The purpose was to establish an outline that aids the reader by breaking a book into sections. Thus, the various literary approaches to the study of Scripture have indicated that the meaning of a text is connected to its structure. This Journal presented multiple outlines by many authors. Some frameworks were presented with only two sections. Other outlines introduced the theory that Luke structured Acts around two main characters, Peter and Paul. Another outline was broken into three parts, and many outlined Acts from the perspective of providing an account of how the gospel was preached from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Different formations were based on various sections, and others focused solely on geography as the focus of Acts.

The author notes that while several proposals have been put forward which focus on other aspects of the text, most schemes regarding the structure of Acts are based upon one or more of these four textual characteristics. The four components that were listed in the essay were: geographical progression from Jerusalem to Rome, principal characters, and the role of the Holy Spirit within the account of Acts. Another thing that stuck out to me in the essay was the mention that prominent characters within the narrative of the structure of Acts should receive proper consideration. The text noted that the attention to the primary personalities should not be limited to merely Paul and Peter, as in some structural outlines of Acts. However, it should include some of the many other people who also played a significant role in spreading the Gospel and the growth of the church. In doing this, respecting the Holy Spirit as the principal character of the story.

I agree with the statement that attention should not be limited to two major characters, Peter and Paul; but, it should include some other anointed individuals who played roles in spreading the Gospel and the growth of the church. Additionally, I recognize the Holy Spirit as the principal character of the story of Acts. I also agree with the fact that a hermeneutic structural outline of Acts should emphasize the role of geography in Acts. Geographical locations would have been essential for the structure of Acts because it intended to capture a much broader audience with the message of Jesus Christ. Although Paul and Peter were two of the main characters of Acts, many other notable figures labored to spread the gospel. These individuals were also filled with the Holy Spirit and used by God in a mighty way for the gospel's sake. I believe the Holy Spirit is vital to the outline of Acts because The Holy Spirit not only verifies the Resurrection but also, by extension, the veracity of the scriptures. The Holy Spirit teaches us, leads us in truth, and bear witness to Christ, there would be no church today at all because there would be no gospel to preach.

## Bibliography

Thomas, John. "The Charismatic Structure of Acts." *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 13, no. 1 (2004): 19-30. doi:10.1177/096673690401300102.