

**MIRACLES!**  
**(Ch3:21 + Ch4:30)**  
**ACTS CH5:12-16**

**RE-CAP!**

The Church in Jerusalem was initially:

- 120 people - **Ch1:15**
- then 3120 people - **Ch2:41**
- then 3120+ people - **Ch2:47**
- to 5000 men probably anything from 5000 - 10,000 people – **Ch4:4**
- Now! People are becoming Christians daily, in an unprecedented way – Ch5:14! 10,000+ perhaps!!

***Peter has preached on three occasions up to this point:***

1. Ch1:15-26
2. Ch2:14-36
3. Ch3:12-26
4. Ch4:8-12

(There will be 8 by Peter - Ch1:15-22; 2:14-41; 3:6-26; 4:8-22; 5:29-42; 10:34-48; 11:4-18; + 15:7-11)

***The apostles are filled and continue to speak boldly! Ch4:31***

***FIVE VITAL SIGNS OF A SPIRIT FILLED CHURCH FROM BOTH PASSAGES!***

1. **GOSPEL** – is central from which everything else flows
2. **GROWTH** – personal ownership, a desire to grow in holiness
3. **GROUPS** – healthy discipleship groups, walking together
4. **GIFTS** – Christians using their gifts to build God's Church
5. **GIVING** – Christians using their time, talents and treasure

**ILLUSTRATION**

The original version of the song, featured in the narrative portion of the film, is performed by **Sally Dworsky, Michelle Pfeiffer, and a children's choir (children's choir soloist: Andrew Bryan)**. November 2, 1998, the song "When You Believe" sung by Whitney and Mariah Carey, was released as a single in the U.S. The song is from the 1998 DreamWorks musical animated feature The Prince of Egypt, written by Stephen Schwartz, with additional music and lyrics by writer-producer Babyface.

**HANDS! V12**

Miracle-working – Literally, the sick are healed by the laying on of hands! The touch of a persons hands was held to communicate authority, power or blessing. According to Wayne Grudem ***"The methods used by Jesus and the disciples to bring healing varied from case to case, but most frequently they included laying on of hands. In the verse just quoted, Jesus no doubt could have***

***spoken a powerful word of command and healed everyone in the large crowd instantly, but instead, 'he laid hands on every one of them and healed them` (Luke Ch4:40). Laying on of hands seems to have been the primary means Jesus used to heal, because when people came and asked him for healing they did not simply ask for prayer but said, for example, 'come and lay your hand on her, and she will live` (Matt Ch9:18)'' (Systematic Theology, pg1065).***

Performed publicly and gathered together at Solomon's Portico/Colonnade (Ch3:11; John Ch10:23 – Jesus had taught there!). This was a covered portico (a structure consisting of a roof supported by columns at regular intervals, typically attached as a porch to a building) that ran the entire length of the eastern portion of the outer court of the Temple, known as “Court of the Gentiles.” ***Meeting there publicly, in spite of the serious warnings of the Sanhedrin not to do so in Ch4:18+21, shows the unity and continued boldness of the Gospel Community!***

### **HUMANKIND! V13+V14**

The relation between the Christians and the population of Jerusalem? The success of the apostles preaching! These are difficult verses to interpret! Does Luke mean that because of what had happened to Ananias and Sapphira, the non-Christians were too afraid to join or come near the group? Or does Luke mean, that there were some Christians who because of what had happened to Ananias and Sapphira, were also too scared to join the gathered Christians?

What ever Luke meant for his readers to understand, people where still being saved and putting their trust in God through the apostles teaching, on an unprecedented basis, and yet there were also those, human beings, who because of fear did not join them! ***Typical human nature, where a community has both repulsion and attraction!***

### **HEALING! V15-V16**

Even if people dare not attend Solomon's Portico/Colonnade, they were prepared to meet him in the street! The words by Luke suggest a desire for closer contact with Peter, despite the apprehension noted in V13. Peter does not even need to speak or it seems give any attention to the sick as the Gospel Community is full, not a shadow, of the presence and power of God!

Not surprisingly, news of this powerful presence soon reached outside the city walls, into the nearby regions, and people flocked to the city, with their sick and demon possessed. ***What helpers, the ones who brought the sick and demon possessed!*** What better way to finish the summary paragraph that started with signs and wonders and finishes with the demon possessed being healed, such is the power and work of Christ, through the Holy Spirit by the apostles (Ch3:21)!

### **APPLICATION**

The same power then, is still available now!