

“Being A Witness”

Acts 1:8

Acts Series Pt. 1

**Broadway MBC - Winchester, Kentucky
Pastor G. Chris Brown**

Being A Witness

- Bible Study Lesson Text: Acts 1:8 ESV - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- The Late Great Theologian Charles H. Spurgeon once said this: " To be a soul winner is the happiest thing in this world. And with every soul you bring to Jesus Christ, you seem to get a new heaven here upon earth."
- There is truth to this, and there is something that we all must understand and realize as we walk with the Lord..... How far are we willing to go to reach people for Jesus Christ?
- Following the Lord should make us all, have a desire within our hearts to want to reach the loss for Jesus, because nobody that follows Jesus should be comfortable with seeing people not be saved!
- If you are comfortable with people going to (Hell) are you really saved?

Being A Witness

- When we are believers in Jesus Christ, we are on a mission by Jesus Christ to go into the world and to make sure that we are sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because we all have a charge to share the commission!
- When we are believers in Jesus Christ, and when we are followers of Jesus Christ the most important conversation that we should be having as we follow the Lord is..... "Do you know Jesus Christ?"
- As believers in Jesus Christ, before we can witness we must understand and make sure that we know what we believe in! You can't witness if you don't know what you believe, because it is more than just saying it but you have to really know what you believe.
- You have to be a firm believer in the word of God, and the God of the word to be a witness because if we don't know the word how can we share the word of God? You can't share what you don't spend time in!

Being A Witness

- "How much time are you spending in the word of God?"
- If an Unbeliever, an Atheist, a Mormon, a Hebrew Israelite, or an Agnostic came to you, and challenged you could you defend the faith?
- There are going to be those times that we are approached, by those who do their best by trying to disprove our belief in the Lord. It is then that we have to make sure we know the word, and we have to make sure that we have the faith in the Lord to stand up for what we believe.
- There is something else that we have to understand, that in order to be a witness for the Lord we need to have the right ingredient and that is.....
"The Holy Spirit"
- We need the Holy Spirit in order to reach the lost, in order to really be the witnesses that we need to be we need the Holy Spirit, because we are ineffective without the Holy Spirit!
- If we don't have the Holy Spirit we won't have power!

Being A Witness

- This word "receive" in the Greek means - To take possession of.
- This word "power" in the Greek means - Power for performing miracles, and moral power and excellence of soul.
- The name "Holy Spirit" in the Greek means - Pneuma and as we call the Paraclete, and emphasis the work of the Holy Spirit.
- This is the key of the text, that you can't reach people without having some power in your life but it is the right kind of power, because we need the real power of the Lord in our lives because we are living in times of powerless Christians and Churches!
- Has the Church lost the power that it once had, because of allowing so many other things to take control and precedence that we are in the Church but we don't feel the Holy Spirit?
- The Church that doesn't have the Holy Spirit, is a Church that is dead and has no direction!

Being A Witness

- We need the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit to direct us, to challenge us, to convict us, and to make us really begin to live a complete life!
- As we are following the Lord, and as we are serving the Lord we can't be a Church or believers that try to do things without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will correct us, and the Holy Spirit will direct us but without the Holy Spirit we won't feel the power of the word change us!
- We need the power of the Lord to be in our lives, and we need to have the power of the Lord around us because we have to be willing, and ready to go in the world and tell everybody about the power of Jesus Christ.
- Luke 24:48-49 ESV - You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
- Isaiah 43:12 ESV -I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5 ESV - because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

Being A Witness

- It is a true reality, that the world we live in needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ because we are seeing that the world is in bad shape, and the Church should be a mouthpiece for the Lord.
- According to statistics only 31% of Americans currently attend Church!
- 20% of Americans attend Church every week!
- Church attendance has dropped from 44% to 40% for Protestant faith believers, and in the Catholic Church attendance has dropped from 37% to 30%
- We are living in times that the world needs the Church, but the Church has lost the power and influence it once had because now we look more like the world, we look and show more division, we show more egos, and we do things that aren't even Biblical and the power has left the Church!
- If the power is not in the Church, it isn't God's fault but the people's fault!

Being A Witness

- 77.7% of non-churchgoing members of Gen Z are looking for churches that help the poor.
- 72% of non-churchgoing members of Gen Z have doubts about the existence of God.
- 73.6% of non-churchgoing members of Gen Z are looking for churches that address mental health.
- The number of evangelicals that never attend church increased from 25% pre-COVID to 33% today.
- The number of evangelicals that attend church regularly dropped from 26% pre-COVID to 24% today.
- 59% of members say "regular attendance" means attending church once a week or more
- 30% of pastors consider "regular attendance" to mean attending church at least twice a month. An additional 25% lower the threshold to just once a month attendance

Being A Witness

- As we look at the Church, if we want the Church to continue to grow then what are we going to do, what are we willing to do, and how are we going to reach the lost. We can't sit down when times are hard, something in all of us should spark to where we want to make the Church grow!
- Church growth isn't just the responsibility of the Pastor, but Church growth is also on each one of us because if we have the power of the Lord than why aren't we utilizing it?
- You can reach somebody for Christ if you want to, the thing is that you have to want to because some people don't want to reach people for Christ, because of a lazy spirit, and because they don't want to see the Church grow!
- We have the power to make a strong impact in society, in our communities, and in our world but we have to be willing to go and be in a position to receive the power of the Lord!
- We should have so much power, to where people can see it and feel it in us to where we can make such a powerful change that brings people to Christ, and makes them want to change their lives.

Being A Witness

- The importance of the text is understanding, that when we get the power of the Lord it is the Lord giving it to us. The Lord has given us the charge, and we should not take the charge lightly but take it with faith, pride, and honor.
- When the Lord calls are you ready to work?
- That is the assignment on our lives as witnesses, that are we ready to work, and are we ready to go be the living examples of what it means to follow Jesus Christ?
- This word "witnesses" in the Greek means - Martyr, and those who after his example have proved the strength and genuineness of their faith in Christ by undergoing a violent death.
- Are we willing to lose our life for Christ, are we willing to be tortured for Christ, are willing to be hurt, wounded, and bruised for Christ, or are we too comfortable playing it safe and not trying to impact the world?

Being A Witness

- 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 ESV - Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. [25] Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; [26] on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; [27] in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. [28] And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.
- Acts 4:7-12 ESV - And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" [8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, [9] if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, [10] let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-by him this man is standing before you well. [11] This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Being A Witness

- Luke 8:36-39 ESV - And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. [37] Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. [38] The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, [39] "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.
- Philippians 3:7-11 ESV - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith- [10] that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [11] that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- Colossians 1:24-26 ESV - Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, [25] of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, [26] the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

Being A Witness

- Missionary Geoffrey Bull faced 3 years of intense torture (emotional and physical) in a Chinese Communist prison, for sharing his convictions about Jesus Christ in Tibet.
- The Late Theologian D. L. Moody said this: "When a man is filled with the Word of God you cannot keep him still, If a man has got the Word, he must speak or die."
- The Late American Preacher Theodore H. Epp said this: God has given believers the responsibility of spreading the Gospel to all the world, and we need to use all at our disposal to accomplish this task.
- Theologian John Stott said this: All around us we see Christians and churches relaxing their grasp on the gospel, fumbling it, and in danger of letting it drop from their hands altogether.
- Darlene Deibler Rose and her husband suffered for Christ, by being jailed in a Japanese prison, while she lost her husband, and other sufferings she endured by speaking for the Lord!

Being A Witness

- As we serve the Lord, and as we continue to go forward with the Lord we don't know where the Lord will send us to do His work, but wherever the Lord send us we have to ready to do the work!
- The Gospel is not restricted to just one spot and area, but the Gospel will travel and go many places and no matter where we are the Lord is there, and somebody needs the word of God!
- The Gospel will reach everybody, and the Gospel has the power to reach everybody but let us not be complacent and let us not be silent, but as loud as the world is with everything else, it should be louder with the Church and the Christian believers!
- Don't ever stop spreading the word of God, and as we walk with the Lord we have to make sure that we never stop being that witness. We are witnesses to everything else, but nothing should get more attention than Jesus!

Being A Witness

- Nothing should be like that, and we should always give Jesus more attention than anything else, and because we give it to Jesus that is when we know that improvements are made!
- Improvements, transformation, and the anointing will circulate us when we follow the Lord, and when we step up to the plate. We have to step up to the plate, and we have to be ready to go in the world and declare the word of the Lord to all people!
- Mark 16:15 ESV - And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
- Romans 12:1-2 ESV - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Being A Witness

- 1 Peter 1:10-12 ESV - Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, [11] inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. [12] It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Questions To Ponder:

1. What Does It Mean To Be A Witness?
2. Does The Church Have Power?
3. Do You Know The Holy Spirit?
4. Will The Church Be Respected Like It Used To Be?
5. What Are You Going To Do To Help Grow The Church?

“The Power Of The Holy Ghost”

(Acts 2:1-4)

Acts Series Pt.2

Broadway MBC - Winchester, KY
Pastor G. Chris Brown



"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- Bible Study Lesson Text: Acts 2:1-4 ESV - When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. [2] And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. [3] And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- Pentecost was also called "The Festival of Weeks" and it celebrated the giving of the law on Mount Sinai and occurred fifty days after Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Jews either made pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Pentecost or remained there after Passover.
- Leviticus 23:15-16 ESV - "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. [16] You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD.
- Acts 1:5,8 ESV - for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- Acts 1:13 ESV - And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- It is important as we look at this text, that we understand the importance of following Jesus Christ, but then we see that the Holy Spirit is real and we see that as well that when the Holy Spirit shows up there will be a change in the atmosphere.
- When the Holy Spirit shows up, and when the Holy Spirit gets ahold of us there is going to be a change in us, because when the Holy Spirit is here Church ought to change and won't remain the same. The Holy Spirit has the job, and has the power to change us because when the Holy Spirit is on it will make us take hold and take a new start!
- The Church won't ever grow without the Holy Spirit, and the Church won't be effective without the Holy Spirit, and as we look at our lives as disciples we have to ask ourselves - "Are We Full Of The Holy Spirit?"
- The Holy Spirit will change our language and tone!

“The Power Of The Holy Spirit”

- Our language and speech should change when we have the Holy Spirit, because when the Holy Spirit comes on us we should never keep a silent tone, and the Holy Spirit won't allow you to be silent. The power of the Holy Spirit will wake us up, and make us not stay in the room because it will make us want to say something?
- When was the last time that you got excited to talk about Jesus? Are you excited to talk about Jesus, do you want to talk about Jesus, or do you not have that desire!
- When the Holy Spirit is with you, and when you have the Holy Spirit your life will change, your attitudes will change, your spirit will change, and the things around us will change because we don't have any problem talking about the Holy Spirit!
- Are you on fire for the Lord, or has somebody cooled off your fire? Sometimes we allow our fire to be cooled, when we allow ourselves to be influenced with the wrong Spirit!
- The Spirit of God won't ever keep us in a pool of cold water!

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- The Holy Spirit came like a mighty rushing wind, and the tongues of fire were not said to be actual fire, but it was about the presence of God. The thing about the presence of God, is that once the presence of God is in you then it won't be taken out!
- The presence of God will show up and will shake some things up, and we need the Lord to shake things up. The Church needs to be shaken up, because when the Church is shaken up we won't let ministry pass us by. The Church needs to be shaken up, before we lose the power and influence of what the Church can be!
- The Church can be more than what it is, but the key about the Church and the Christians is that the Holy Spirit won't let you stay stagnant. Stagnant Christians and the Holy Spirit don't go together, but we have to understand that we should want the Holy Spirit to show up.
- The Holy Spirit is needed in our lives, and the Holy Spirit is needed for us to grow but you can't be with God and not have the Holy Spirit in your life because it doesn't work like that. The Holy Spirit is your air to breathe!

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- We ought to want to breathe like we've never breathed before, when the Holy Spirit comes in our lives the Holy Spirit will breathe some new life into us that we have never felt, never seen, or never experienced.
- That's the blessings about the Lord and the Holy Spirit, when we get this new breathe we walk better, we love better, we talk with a louder voice, and we have a different spirit and mindset. We need some breath in the Church, because too often the Church gets stale because it doesn't want anything new that isn't something that we've experienced.
- We all need new breath but that comes from the Holy Spirit, because the focus is on the Holy Spirit and not Jesus because when we see the Holy Spirit working we get happy, we get excited, and we get enthused.
- Do we want to talk about Jesus, and does the Holy Spirit move you and does the Holy Spirit have influence over you?

“The Power Of The Holy Spirit”

- When the Holy Spirit comes over you, there is something that will change in your talk because too often we talk the wrong things, we speak the wrong things, and we have the wrong things in our mouths.
- We need the Lord to clean our mouths in order for us to be a real witness, and sometimes our mouths are the reason why Church will grow or Church will die. Our mouths are dangerous, our mouths are unclean, and our mouths can be full of the spirit of Satan more than the Holy Spirit.
- Do we have the right things in our mouths, because when I am following the Lord I need Heavenly things in my mouth and I need to make sure that those things of God, because I need the Lord to breath that new life in me!
- If you don't have the Lord breathing on you then don't speak until you have the Holy Spirit in you, before you pray, teach, preach, sing, or do anything make sure that you have the Holy Spirit in your life!

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- Don't try to be God's spokesman until you have received the Lord's message! Stop trying to speak for the Lord but you don't have the Spirit in your life, and that is how the Church ought to be before we do anything make sure the Holy Spirit has sent the wind and breathed on me.
- We need the Holy Spirit to shake it up, and we don't ever need the Lord to take His hands off the Church! We need the Lord to always has His hands on this Church, and we need to make sure that we have the right attitude and spirit!
- The Lord is good like that, and the Lord will blow in our direction but the Church has to make sure that it is in the right position to receive the wind and the Spirit from the Lord!
- Are we in the right formation, and are we in the right mode to have the word of the Lord in our lives? God needs witnesses, but the thing is are you ready to be that witness?

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- Are you ready to be a witness, are you ready to stand up, and are you ready to really feel the power of the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is real, but do we have the motivation to have the Holy Spirit, but once you get the Holy Spirit what are you going to do?
- Well..... When the Holy Spirit is in your life, you won't be able to sit still, you won't be able to stay stuck, and you won't be able to stay in the same kind of standard because the Holy Spirit will walk with you through the valley, through the hills, through the strains and through the rain.
- The Holy Spirit won't let you remain the same, and many times you don't have anything to do with or have a choice because once the Holy Spirit is on you there is nothing you have control over anything.
- The Holy Spirit is the center of the Church, and the Holy Spirit won't ever allow the Church to remain the same because we need a Revival!!!

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- We need a Revival in our world. The Revival starts with the Church, and it doesn't start with anybody or anything else but it starts with the Holy Spirit, and when the Holy Spirit is leading us there we will see a real and true Revival unfold!!
- The Revival has to happen, because the Church has a voice that it needs to share and the Church has to be active. We can't have Revival if we don't have the Holy Spirit, but once the Holy Spirit comes we have to refuse to remain normal when God has called us to be powerful!
- Are we being powerful, are we being impactful, and are we being used by God and do we want to be used by God? We should want to be used by God, and we should want the Church to be where everybody comes and everybody is welcomed!
- It is not about denominations it is about Jesus! Jesus never separated and distinguished between denominations, but it is about saving souls!

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- John 3:1-8 ESV - Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. [2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." [3] Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' [8] The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- Ezekiel 2:1-3 ESV - And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." [2] And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. [3] And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day."

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- Ezekiel 37:4-10 ESV - Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. [5] Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. [6] And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." [7] So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. [8] And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. [9] Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." [10] So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.
- Isaiah 6:6-8 ESV - Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. [7] And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." [8] And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- The Late Theologian Leonard Ravenhill said this: "You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there's a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it."
- The Late Theologian Lee Roberson said this: "Revival begins in the individual's heart. Let it begin with you on your face alone before God. Turn from every sin that might hinder. Renew yourself to a new devotion to the Savior."
- The Late Scottish Preacher Andrew Bonar spoke this: "Revivals begin with God's own people; the Holy Spirit touches their heart anew, and gives them new fervor and compassion, and zeal, new light and life, and when He has thus come to you, He next goes forth to the valley of dry bones... Oh, what responsibility this lays on the Church of God! If you grieve Him away from yourselves, or hinder His visit, then the poor perishing world suffers sorely!"
- Psalm 85:6 ESV - Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- "The Late Theologian Andrew Murray said this: "There is need of a great revival of spiritual life, of truly fervent devotion to our Lord Jesus, of entire consecration to His service. It is only in a church in which this spirit of revival has at least begun, that there is any hope of radical change in the relation of the majority of our Christian people to mission work.
- This is what we need in the Church we need this Revival, and we need to be a Church that is focused on prayer because when we pray we see a rebirth, we see a Revival, and we will see lives and hearts changed because the Holy Spirit has showed up.
- We need the Holy Spirit, and I like that people couldn't figure out what happened, but even though they couldn't figure it out the Holy Spirit can't be figured out, the Holy Spirit just does.
- Be glad that you can't figure the Holy Spirit... but be glad that He shows up!

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- I want the Holy Spirit to show up, and I don't want to be anywhere that the Holy Spirit is not because if the Holy Spirit is not there it won't work, it won't happen, and it won't be anything that we can do, because we can't do anything without the Holy Spirit!
- Stop trying to filled with you and get filled with the Holy Spirit!!! We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and when we have the Holy Spirit let us never be afraid to speak for the Lord, and let us never stay silent, but it is about us speaking strong!
- "The Holy Spirit" in the Greek is called - Pneuma and gives new life.
- It is time for new life, a life that is filled with the Holy Spirit and when we have the Holy Spirit we are going to be a Church that will never lose influence or power!
- A powerful Church follows the Holy Spirit's direction and organization!

“The Power Of The Holy Spirit”

- Ephesians 5:17-21 ESV - Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. [18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, [19] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, [20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [21] submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 16:8-11 ESV - But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, [9] for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. [10] When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. [11] So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.
- Colossians 3:23-24 ESV - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

"The Power Of The Holy Spirit"

- The Late Theologian Vance Havner said this: "A revival is the church falling in love with Jesus Christ all over again."
- The Late Theologian R. A. Torrey spoke this: "We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results."

Questions To Ponder:

1. Do We Want A Revival?
2. Will The Church Be Impactful?
3. Have You Felt The Holy Spirit?
4. Does Being Used By God Excite You?
5. Do You Want The Lord To Do Something New?
6. Who Is The Head Of The Church?
7. Where Is The Church Going?

"A GROWING CHURCH"

(ACTS 2:42-47)

ACTS SERIES PT. 3

Broadway MBC – Winchester, KY
Pastor G. Chris Brown

A GROWING CHURCH

- Bible Study Lesson Text: Acts 2:42-47 ESV - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- Pastor Rick Warren says this: "For your Church to grow, you must be nice to people when they show up."
- Pastor Rick Warren also says: "In every growing Church, you will find leadership that is not afraid to believe God.
- Christian Author Thom Rainer says this: "Even if the church began to grow on its own, the members of the dying church would only accept the growth if the new members were like them and if the church would continue to "do church" the way they wanted it."

A GROWING CHURCH

- As we look at the Church, and as we walk with the Lord we have to understand the importance of what it means to fellowship. When the Church is a Church of fellowship, and the Church has to understand that for the Church to grow it has to follow the word of the Lord, and listen to voice of the preacher!
- The text indicates that they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, and when that happened now you see that the Church was able to be a growing mechanism! The most effective form of Church growth is preaching and teaching, and through the preaching and teaching of the word of God that is when we all grow.
- Preaching & Teaching won't allow you to remain the same, because how can you grow with God if you reject what the Lord gives to you. The best way for any Church to grow is by the word of God, and when the word of God is going forth it is not meant to make us weak but to make us strong!
- We can never have real growth without real word!

A GROWING CHURCH

- When the word of God is accepted and received, then you see that the ripple effects will take place because when we receive the word of God then we will be able to make the Church a blessed place, a place of love, a place of warmth, and a place to where people will want to come!
- When you think about the Church.... Have you ever asked yourself the question (What are you bringing to the Church that will make the Church grow?)
- All of us have to bring something to the Church in order for the Church to grow, and when have you really looked at that or even gone out of your way to greet people, talk to people, and fellowship with people that you don't usually talk to?
- As the body of Christ we are notorious for talking to people that we know, and we will laugh with those we know but what about the people we don't know, what about them if they are apart of the Church as well shouldn't they be given some attention!
- Everybody that is in the Church is important and makes the Church what it is!

A GROWING CHURCH

- We don't just fellowship with those we know, because sometimes the Church suffers and the Church loses its significance when the Church is more about clicks than people. We want people to come to Church, but are we are a Church that welcomes everybody, do we speak to everybody, and do we desire to speak to everybody?
- Jesus Christ wasn't a Savior who discriminated or didn't talk to everybody, but Jesus Christ talked to everybody and when you look at Scripture Jesus Christ never looked or met a stranger.
- Why is it that Jesus Christ showed love to everybody, but when it comes to us we have standards or rules about people, and there are people who have an attitude that feel like if you don't meet a certain criteria or financial status that you are not important!
- Nobody is that high because all of us should have that spirit of humility, it is because of the Lord that we all have what we have, and see when the Church follows the word of God the miracles from the Lord show up!

A GROWING CHURCH

- Do we want to experience the miracles of Jesus?
- As we look at how the Church grows, the Church is not meant to be dead but the Church is meant to always be progressive and the Church is meant to always live, to always function, and to always be on the move!
- Sometimes the Church can't go forward because of selfish attitudes, selfish thinking, and selfish personalities. This Church not only did they fellowship, they felt the power of the Lord, they saw the miracles, and they were willing to be sacrificial with possessions in order for the Church to continue to function.
- The Church could do more if more people would invest in the Church, but too often people want to invest so small into the Church but want to have big voices when things come up they don't like. Some people invest small into the Church, but want the Church to do so much but the Church can never continue to do mega-ministry with people that don't want to give.
- We all are called to be givers and tithers in order for our Church to be effective.

A GROWING CHURCH

- We should want to be contributors to our Church, and giving is apart of being obedient to the Lord and it is biblical! The Lord directs us to give back to Him because He gave it to us, and because the Lord gives us everything what are we doing with what He gives!
- Before we do anything else with our money we should tithe to the Lord, because we are to give the Lord the first fruits of our labor! (Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV - Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; [10] then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.)
- When we do our part the Lord will do more than we can every explain or do in our own power, but that is something we have to ask do we want the Church to grow? Do we want the Church to be effective, do we want the Church to be strong, and do we want the Church to lasts?
- When a Church stops the fellowship the Church is a massive heart attack away from permanent death! The Church can't make it without one another and fellowship!

A GROWING CHURCH

- This word “Fellowship” in the Greek means: “Community, Partnership, and a Joint Participation”
- Then we see that not only did they fellowship at the Church, but they also fellowshipped at each other houses. The sad tragedy today is, sometimes we miss times of growth and development with each other because instead of genuine and pure fellowship, we only want sometimes people to come over to talk about other people, to find out information we can use later on, and to talk about what they do and don’t like about Church!
- If the only time you want to be around me is to talk negatively that is not real fellowship!
- Real fellowship is about love, kindness, joy, and friendship! When people come to the Church do they experience that, and do we exhibit that or do we show them that they are welcomed?
- When people come to our Church do they leave with a spirit of wanting to come back, or with a spirit of never stepping foot on that property again?

A GROWING CHURCH

- That is what the Church has to view, and the Church has to understand exactly the purpose for us being here. We are followers of the word of God, but we should also be about the fellowship with one another.
- The other side of fellowship that can cause problems is..... Sometimes people push people away, because instead of being Christian they can be more toxic and not showing the real love of Christ.
- When you are a follower of Jesus Christ, what does your spirit look like and when was the last time you let the Lord do a spiritual check up on your heart and spirit? How often do we just go through the motions, without trying to grow and being a better Christian?
- You have to ask that in your life, and as we follow the Lord what are we doing with the blessings that the Lord has given us? Do we want to be the spokesman for the Lord, or does the Lord trust us enough to be the spokespersons for the Lord, or have we messed up because we aren't concerned enough about authentic fellowship?

A GROWING CHURCH

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ESV - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
- Philippians 2:1-7 ESV - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2] complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. [5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

A GROWING CHURCH

- 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12 ESV - For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. [10] You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. [11] For you know how, like a father with his children, [12] we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15 ESV - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. [12] We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, [13] and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. [14] And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. [15] See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.
- 1 John 2:9-10 ESV - Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. [10] Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

A GROWING CHURCH

- The Late Preacher & Theologian Charles H. Spurgeon said this: “The sermon which does not lead to Christ, or of which Jesus Christ is not the top and the bottom, is a sort of sermon that will make the devils in hell laugh, but make the angels of God weep.”
- Pastor & Theologian John Piper spoke it this way: “God has ordained that our preaching become deeper and more winsome as we are broken, humbled, and made low and desperately dependent on grace by the trials of our lives.”
- The Late Theologian John Stott spoke it like this: “The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.”
- Christian Author Graham Cooke said this: “I think the responsibility of leadership in the church is not to do slick meetings and not to figure out how to get 5,000 people through a facility in a weekend. It is to produce a people like Jesus. Let’s be a people who are actually producing something on the ground that could totally annihilate the enemy in our city. That’s our job!”

A GROWING CHURCH

- This text indicates something else that happens when a Church gets together - Praise is always on a high level. After fellowship, did you see what this Church did and that was praising the Lord, because when we praise the Lord the Lord grows the Church, the Lord adds to the Church, and we are encouraged.
- Praising God should always be something that is vibrant, exciting, and meaningful. We don't come to Church just to sit down, but we come to Church to have Church because when we know how the Lord has been good to us praise should be automatic!
- Don't rush praising God, but real worship is something that we all can join in with especially when we know what the Lord has done praising Him should never be something that we don't do!
- You can always praise the Lord, and we should want to praise the Lord because when the Lord is real in your life praising God should be a fire that burns, and not like a freezer that is cold the moment you open it!

A GROWING CHURCH

- We should never be a cold Church but we should be a fire Church, and when we show life in us the Lord will send more people to bring more life to the Church! When the Lord sends more we increase in ministry, increase in functions, and increase in things that we can do and accomplish!
- The Lord can and will send to the Church who He wants to be there, because everybody doesn't fit every Church. God will send the correct and right people for each Church, whether they are saved or unsaved, God knows who needs to be here and God knows who doesn't need to be here because it is His Church!
- Our job and mission is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to be about the fellowship of the Church but once we do that we have to keep planting seeds and letting the Lord water the seeds! We should never stop planting the seeds, and we should never stop praying over what we want to see happen!
- The Church should always focus on the mission, and when we focus on God the Church will grow! A Church that doesn't focus on the Lord is a Church that will never grow, but it will always be looking for the next best thing, because it hasn't become satisfied with the main thing which is Jesus Christ!

A GROWING CHURCH

- The Church should be focused on:

1. Preaching - Galatians 1:10-12 ESV - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. [11] For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. [12] For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
2. Praying - Colossians 4:2 ESV - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
3. Worship - John 4:23-24 ESV - But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
4. Discipleship - Matthew 28:18-20 ESV - And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

A GROWING CHURCH

5. Serving - John 13:6-10 ESV - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" [7] Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." [8] Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." [9] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" [10] Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."

6. Loving - 1 John 4:7-8,11 ESV - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

7. Welcoming - Romans 15:7 ESV - Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

A GROWING CHURCH

- The Lord has called us to be the Church, now it is time for us to put it into action and not to continue to sit on the sidelines but to get in the game and grow the Church!
- The Church has the tools and power to grow, but we also have to make sure we are doing our job when the Lord gives us the call, the charge, and the power to do it now it is on us to get it done!
- I want the Church to grow in all areas..... Do you????????????? If you want to see the Church grow..... IT IS TIME TO GET TO WORK!!!!!!!

Questions To Ponder:

1. How Can The Church Grow?
2. Are You Welcoming To People When They Come To Church?
3. Are We More Concerned With Seats Than Souls?
4. Are You A Trustworthy Person?
5. Do You Want New Members?
6. What Does Your Worship Life Look Like?
7. What Will You Give To The Church, For The Church To Continue To Improve?

**“The Lord Deserves This”
(Acts 3:6–10)
Acts Series Pt. 4**

**Broadway MBC - Winchester, KY
Pastor G. Chris Brown**

“The Lord Deserves This”

- Bible Study Lesson Text: Acts 3:6-10 ESV - But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" [7] And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. [8] And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. [9] And all the people saw him walking and praising God, [10] and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
- There is something great about walking with the Lord, that you will understand and realize that it is good to have an understanding that when the Lord changes you there aren't any limits to your praise!
- As we walk with the Lord, and as we follow the Lord it is good to know and understand that when you have been walking with the Lord praise is mandatory because God is the reason why you have recovered!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- Has the Lord allowed you to recover from something? There are plenty of things that we can recover from, because as you walk with the Lord and as you follow the Lord you realize and understand that sometimes life will make us get to a place to where we have to understand that it was the Lord that got us through this!
- The Lord will get us through things that nobody else can get us through, and you know the Lord will let us make it through hard times, we will make it through some trials, we will make it through some tough times, and we will make it through some bad days but it is the reality to understand that we need God and His power!
- We all need the Lord, and you realize that when you walk with the Lord you become more grateful that the Lord didn't give you what you wanted but He gave you what you need. Sometimes the things that we want aren't the things we need, because too often we want what we want but does it bring us real deliverance!
- Don't crave for what won't bring you real deliverance!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- Real worth is not in having possessions, but real worth is having Jesus Christ. This man in the text was begging for alms but instead of alms he got something better than that, he got something that money couldn't buy, and he got something that would not have given him what money could have given him!
- He got Jesus and Jesus is better than money, Jesus is better than material possessions, Jesus is better than anything that the world can give or offer. Jesus is better than that, because when you think about life are the things of life worth missing out on Jesus?
- When you are a child of the Lord, and when you are a follower of God you learn how to really live. It is easy to live when you have things going for you, but what do you do when life crashes on you, when life burns you, when life wounds you, and when life hurts you what do you do then?
- Do you still live and trust in the Lord, because you understand that just because I don't get what I want in life, doesn't mean something else isn't on the way that's better!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- You begin to see that in life, that there are just somethings that are better than having things on the world. The world can make it seem like things of the world are so great, so special, so spectacular, and then you begin to see that the things that life likes to broadcast are the things that really don't mean me any good!
- Have you see that in your life..... Some stuff that I used to hold on to, didn't give me any power and didn't give me any love! You see that we love some stuff that doesn't love us, and you see that you have to decide what is really valuable to you, what is really special to you, and what is really necessary for you!
- Do you have that kind of mindset that I know what I want, and that if other stuff leaves me as long as I have the main thing that is good enough for me and that is enough for me. Other stuff will leave you, but when you more faith in that then Jesus you won't make it or last!
- When my faith and hope is in Jesus.... I know that what I can't get He doesn't want me to have, and He has more in His hands than what any man can offer or give me!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- Peter & John are on their way to Church at the “ninth hour” which was 3pm, and there was a man that was lame from birth and they are at this gate that is called “Beautiful”. This was a custom an historical custom in Judaism because they would 3 times a day.
- Psalm 55:17 ESV - Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.
- This time of prayer was known as: ““Minchah” because it was the ninth hour and a half, and that it was from the sixth hour to the ninth hour which was labeled as the evening prayer.”
- This gate “Beautiful” has been called the Shushan which was the eastern gate of the mountain of the house and the metropolis of Persia, and that it was beautiful and when the Jews returned from captivity they made this gate as a remembrance of deliverance from Haman.
- The Shushan name of this gate signifies joy and gladness, and that this gate was a higher gate built by Jotham, & called the New Gate
- 2 Kings 15:35 ESV - Nevertheless, the high places were not removed. The people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD.
- Jeremiah 26:10 ESV - When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD.

“The Lord Deserves This”

- This man is begging for alms, but Peter and John didn't have the alms but they did know who the one was that can make the change in his life. Once they mentioned Jesus, that was then that this man was restored and Peter and John helped this man up and not just helped him up but then man had the right reaction after being healed.
- The man came to Church walking, leaping, and praising God and then the people saw him and they were amazed by how this man went from begging to now this man is praising the Lord after being healed.
- The think about the man that is real, the man was not ashamed to praise the Lord and it didn't matter how he praised the Lord the man was in the house of God praising the Lord, and when real worship is in effect, you don't care how you praise the Lord as long as you are praising the Lord it makes the difference!
- You aren't ashamed of praising the Lord, when you know what the Lord has done for you because you don't care about people's reaction when you know God has brought you through!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- When the Lord has brought you through.... There is no reason for you to be conservative. You don't have to be conservative with your praise, but take the lesson from the man give God your best praise, instead of giving the Lord just a few snippets the Lord delivers the full expression!
- You should approach God with the spirit of joy, the spirit of gratitude, the spirit of appreciation, and the spirit of thankfulness, because when your mind is on God you don't care about what other people say, because they aren't God!
- Worship is about the Lord, and when worship has the mindset and focus on the Lord there are no restrictions and there are no limitations. Stop missing your moment with the Lord, because you are focused on what people say or think?
- Worship is about your relationship with the Lord, and how you feel about the Lord will come out in your worship. Does your relationship with the Lord have enough strength to where you come with the intention and determination to praise Him!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- When we come to Church we ought to come with the intentions to praise Him, and stop thinking that you have to praise the Lord like you have seen others praise the Lord. Praising the Lord is not about meeting a specific standard or criteria, praising the Lord is about giving it to God for all He has done.
- God has done it for you, God has made it possible for you, and God has kept you so why not give the Lord the praise. When we are in the house of God our only objective is to praise Him, and don't be afraid to express yourself to God, when you realize and know the experiences you have had in life praise takes on a whole different level.
- When we come to the house of God, hasn't the Lord done enough for you to where when you get here you don't have any problems with praising Him? This man had no problem with praising God, the people watched him and praise will make others wake up!
- When you see somebody praising God for what God has done for them, that ought to excite you and wake you up to where you start praising for what He has done for you. When we all praise the Lord together, it sets the tone, it sets the atmosphere, and it makes us all have this new level of worship!
- Worship elevates in your life when the Holy Spirit gets ahold of you!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- Worship grows when the Holy Spirit has gotten ahold of you, and worship is something that is personal. When something is personal to you, that is something that you makes you have a different attitude, a different spirit, and a different tone because you realize and know that this is something special and it means something to me.
- Worship is a personal testimony, worship is a personal declaration, worship is a personal voice, worship is a personal feeling, worship is a personal mindset, and worship is a personal journey!
- When you reflect on your journey, and when you reflect on how the Lord let you overcome challenges and has blessed you through your valleys, and challenges you started praising and don't care about how you do it just make sure you do it!
- This man shows us something else, we all need to make sure that we always give the Lord credit for how you made it. Don't make it and then forget how you made it, and don't allow the fact you aren't down make you forget when you were down!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- That is another thing that we need to make sure that we remember, that we should never forget how we made it and we all needed something and somebody to help us to get where we are!
- Too often people forget how people have been there for them, and too often people have forgotten about how they were struggling and how they went through battles, and how they went through different hurdles but people were there for them, and you should never forget about how people were there for them!
- That’s why praising the Lord should be that real, don’t forget the prayers God answered, don’t forget how the Lord kept your lights on, don’t forget how the Lord made your life better, and don’t forget how the Lord lifted you up and out of some bad places.
- Don’t forget how the Lord set you free, don’t forget how the Lord shined on you, and don’t forget how the Lord gave you another chance. Worship should always refresh your memory, and when your memory is refreshed it will produce some powerful worship!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- Psalm 100:1-5 ESV - Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! [2] Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! [3] Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. [4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! [5] For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
- Psalm 150:1-6 ESV - Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! [2] Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! [3] Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! [4] Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! [5] Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! [6] Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
- Philippians 4:4 ESV - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

“The Lord Deserves This”

- 1 Samuel 1:26-28 ESV - And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. [27] For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. [28] Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.
- 1 Samuel 2:1-2 ESV - And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. [2] "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
- Isaiah 25:1 ESV - O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
- Exodus 14:30-31 ESV - Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. [31] Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.
- Exodus 15:1-2 ESV - Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. [2] The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

“The Lord Deserves This”

- You also see something within this text, that this man in this text got the power and got back up all because of the right name. That is the key about this life as well, make sure that you know the right name and when you know the right name that will give you the victory!
- The name Jesus will provide healing, the name Jesus will provide hope, the name Jesus will provide joy, the name of Jesus will provide when nothing else can, and when other things run out the name Jesus lets you know that you will make it, you will survive, and you will never lose when Jesus is your everything!
- The man got healed and got the right name in his life, and that is another reminder that when you are with Jesus and when you hang with Jesus you got what you need, and you are never alone.
- Some names you can't call, some names you can't depend on, and some names you can't trust but you can always trust in the name of Jesus, because this name will never leave you out in the cold, but this name will pick you up and give you new life!

“The Lord Deserves This”

- That is what is great about the name of Jesus, and that is why we can have this strong faith and we can have this strong belief in the Lord because the name of Jesus always comes through right on time!
- There is no name like the name Jesus, and there is no name that will give you real healing like the Lord will. Sometimes we have to know who we can call on and we can't call on, and I rather call on Jesus than anybody else!
- Jesus is more powerful than love ones, Jesus is more powerful than the President, Jesus is more powerful than the Pope, Jesus is more influential than anybody else, and nobody has the resume that Jesus has!
- The Late Preacher & Theologian Charles Stanley said this: “There is only one secure foundation: a genuine, deep relationship with Jesus Christ, which will carry you through any and all turmoil. No matter what storms are raging all around, you'll stand firm if you stand on His love.”

“The Lord Deserves This”

- Pastor & Author Max Lucado said this: “The idea of a spiritual heart transplant is a vivid image to me; once you have the heart of somebody else inside you, then that heart is there. Jesus' heart is inside me, and my heart is gone. So if God were to place a stethoscope against my chest, he would hear the heart of Jesus Christ beating.
- The Late Great African Theologian St Augustine said this: “A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.”
- Mark 10:46-52 ESV - And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. [47] And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" [48] And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" [49] And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." [50] And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. [51] And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." [52] And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

“The Lord Deserves This”

- John 15:1-5 ESV - "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Questions To Ponder:

1. **Are You Giving God Enough Praise?**
2. **Do You Praise The Lord Daily?**
3. **What Has The Lord Done For You?**
4. **Are You Thankful For Your Journey?**
5. **When You Come To Church Are You Wasting Time?**
6. **What Does The Name Of Jesus Mean To You?**
7. **Are You Glad That Jesus Won't Leave You In A Bad Situation?**

“The Danger Of Lying” Pt. 1
(Acts 5:1-6)
Acts Series Pt. 5



Broadway MBC - Winchester, KY
Pastor G. Chris Brown

“The Danger Of Lying”

- Bible Study Lesson Text: Acts 5:1-6 ESV - But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, [2] and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. [3] But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? [4] While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." [5] When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. [6] The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.
- It is no secret that, when you get mixed up in the wrong things that it will backbite on you, and there are times you can't take some things back when you walk and follow the wrong things!
- Just because you can get away with something doesn't mean you have!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- Bad deeds will never go unnoticed by the Lord, and you have to be careful how you do things and what you touch because you can't avoid corruption when you are hanging around in corruption!
- What are you doing, what are you hanging around, and what are you involving yourself in that can be the cause of your downfall? We all can have a tragic ending to our lives, when we decide to do something that is heinous, immoral, and not clean!
- Just because something looks good, looks clean, or even looks like there are no consequences doesn't mean that there aren't consequences. Too often people live in a spirit of delusion, because you have to remember you might be able to hide things from me or hide things from others, but there is nothing you can hide from the Lord!
- The thing with being with the wrong people is..... Evil doesn't let you hide! Too often people try to hide, they try to run away, or even try to walk away but the thing is that when you are in the wrong car you'll always crash!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- Exodus 1:15 ESV - Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,
- Exodus 2:21 ESV - And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.
- There is that truth, and there is that reality because we see that this married couple sold possessions but only gave a little bit to the Church but they kept some for themselves! They kept plenty for themselves, and in that is when you see that they corrupted themselves, they messed themselves up, and they hurt the purity that they had in them.
- Then you see that Peter goes to Ananias and questions why did you let Satan fill your heart with evil, fill your heart with this evil deed, and that you held back from the Lord/ It is easy to get caught up with Satan when you entertain Satan, and the danger of entertaining Satan is that when you get too close it is hard to get away!
- When you play with Satan don't be shocked when you get burned by Satan!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- That is what we see in the text, that how can you be a servant of the Lord and even a follower of the Lord but you are okay with getting into the wrong groups, doing the wrong things, and thinking that it is okay to be corrupt!
- You have to be your OWN PERSON!!!!!!
- The problem is that people don't always act like themselves, and they don't always do what is right because when you are on the wrong team you will be apart of the problem not the solution!
- Problems show up when we live right that is a certainty, but sometimes we cause and create our own problems when we want to do things because we want to do them, but then we don't think about the consequences afterwards!
- If more people thought about the consequences..... There would be some stuff that they wouldn't do, because too often sometimes we act on emotions and not act on our convictions, and when we don't act correctly we do things incorrectly!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- When was the last time you thought about it before you did it? Have you been so wrapped in your feelings, your anger, and your own thoughts that you began to think to yourself that I am okay doing this, I don't care the outcome, and it is what I want to do but not thinking about the effects!
- Ananias & Sapphira they started off good, but then they went bad because now they had to skim from the top, they had to be corrupt, and they had to withhold but you can never withhold from the Lord.
- You can never do evil in the face of God and expect God to be okay with it! There are times that people might not do something with money, but that doesn't mean you haven't done something that God hasn't looked at and that the Lord hasn't forgotten about!
- We sometimes try to forget that God doesn't forget, and you can't run away from wrongdoings because the Lord knows how to convict you!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- The Lord uses His servant to call out Ananias, and you know that is another reminder that the word of the Lord will always convict when it is preached/taught correctly. The word of God isn't meant to be played with, but the Lord will chastise us when we are living a life that is not pleasing to Him!
- When you do wrong God will make you a corpse for everybody else to see! When you do wrong, you will go from being used by God to being carried out by the Lord and we have to realize that the Lord will cancel us when we are guilty of sin and we don't repent!
- What haven't you repented of, who haven't you told sorry to, or what have you not done proper that you should have done proper but didn't? These are the facts of following the Lord, and living with the Lord is that if you live with the Lord and for the Lord something in you should know what is right and wrong!
- You can't play both sides of the fence with the Lord, and have you ever thought about the Lord taking you out all because of your own deeds?

“The Danger Of Lying”

- Imagine this..... You have a one on one talk with the Lord, and the Lord tells you that you broke His heart and the Lord gives you the words of dissatisfaction, but instead of giving you another chance all you get is a funeral!
- It doesn't matter how much you have served the Lord, been faithful to the Lord, prayed to the Lord, or acknowledged the Lord when the Lord is tired of you He will take you out. Has the Lord gotten tired of you, because of the way you have chosen to live and because of the way you have chosen to live has now messed you up?
- The wrong words can mess you up, the wrong people can mess you up, the wrong actions can mess up, and the wrong ideas can mess you up! Have you been messed up, by the people who you thought you could love, trust, and follow but instead of serving the Lord correctly you have allowed your spirit to be messed up!
- It is sad to see.... No matter how much you call yourself a Christian, it doesn't matter if you don't act like it! Too often people speak what they don't live like!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- We see the effects of lying, we see the effects of being corrupt, and we see the effects of not doing what is right in the eyes of God. What are you doing everyday, have you withheld from the Lord, have you restricted yourself from the Lord, and have you went down the wrong road because you choose to stop having the Lord as the driver?
- Who is the driver in your life, who is the leader in your life, and who is the one that you are living with and for? You can't fool the Lord, and you can't fool people who walk with the Lord because when you are with the Lord, the Holy Spirit will always reveal to you who is real and who isn't real!
- Sometimes we need to see who is real and who isn't real, because we make the tragic mistake sometimes of believing and thinking that some people are good for us, when really they are only good for us to commit sin crimes!
- You can be a guilty felon because of listening to the wrong people, looking at the wrong things, and bringing the wrong things to your life!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- If the Lord told you that He would take your life right now... Would He be justified?
- Would the Lord be justified for that, because once again the Lord knows what you have plotted, the Lord knows what you have schemed, the Lord knows what you done in privacy, the Lord knows what you have agreed to, and the Lord knows what you have put your hands on.
- Would the Lord have reasons to take you out because of evil, because as you look at your life or even go to bed at night are you really satisfied with the Lord, are you really righteous, and are you really walking uprightly!
- The way we walk with the Lord shows in our ability to reject some stuff! Ananias didn't reject the extra money, and you know everything that looks good isn't always good because too often people see riches, but don't think about the effects of it!
- Sometimes money is what will bring our homes down, families down, and yes - Churches down! Money brings some stuff it shouldn't bring, but it does when people allow Satan to control them instead of the Lord!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- When you are doing what is right you have nothing to worry about, but see when you are doing what is wrong there is so much you have to worry about. You have plenty to worry about when you do what is wrong, because when you start out bad to acquire some stuff you keep on doing bad things in order to maintain!
- There is a lifestyle that we should have in serving the Lord, there are times that you have to decide what is important to you! What is important to you, what do you really value, and what do you really treasure because it will show up in your actions!
- It is true, and it is something that we can avoid but at the end of the day it is a personal decision on you to decide are you going to do what is right or are you going to do what is wrong?
- You have that choice and that decision to do what is right, but that is on you and not anybody else but you can't follow everybody else especially when you see that they aren't right and aren't Godly!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- 1 Timothy 6:10 ESV - For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.
- Genesis 6:5-8 ESV - The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6] And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. [7] So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." [8] But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
- Proverbs 22:8-12 ESV - Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail. [9] Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. [10] Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease. [11] He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend. [12] The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he overthrows the words of the traitor.

“The Danger Of Lying”

- Exodus 10:7-11 ESV - Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?" [8] So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, "Go, serve the LORD your God. But which ones are to go?" [9] Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the LORD." [10] But he said to them, "The LORD be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind. [11] No! Go, the men among you, and serve the LORD, for that is what you are asking." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.
- Romans 2:6-11 ESV - He will render to each one according to his works: [7] to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; [8] but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. [9] There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, [10] but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. [11] For God shows no partiality.

“The Danger Of Lying”

- Pastor Rick Warren says this: “A lie doesn’t become truth, wrong doesn’t become right & evil doesn’t become good, just because it’s accepted by a majority.
- Author Steve Maraboli spoke it this way: “You may think you are a good person hanging out with the wrong crowd, but to someone watching, the difference is not noticeable.”

African Proverbs:

- When your neighbour is wrong you point a finger, but when you are wrong you hide.
- If you see wrongdoing or evil and say nothing against it, you become its victim.
- A good man gone wrong is usually a bad man found out.

That is the thing that we have to look at in our lives, don’t allow your life to be a tragedy when it doesn’t have to be! If your life becomes a tragedy whose fault is it? (It Is YOURS), and all of us have to take the responsibility of our actions!!!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- We have to take those responsibilities for our actions, and we can't run from those things but when you make the wrong decisions be prepared to accept and live with the decisions that you made.
- Sometimes people want to make bad decisions, and then are shocked or even surprised when those decisions that they made have come back to haunt them, or even come back to make them become less respected, less liked, and really nobody wants to be around them because you can't trust people who want to run with good and evil!
- You can't trust people that have that kind of character, and you see it in the text that Ananias couldn't escape the decisions that he made and that decision cost him his own life. What decisions have you made, that have cost you things that you can't get back?
- Every decision we make indeed has those kinds of repercussions, and if you don't look at like that then you'll be living in your own arrogance thinking that you are above the law, but the law is God and nobody is above the Lord!

“The Danger Of Lying”

- We are not above the Lord, and we have to live lives that show that I value the Lord, I respect the Lord, and I value myself to where that I refuse to to put myself into anything that will be the catalyst for my downfall!
- You can fall if you jump off the wrong cliff with nobody to catch you, and have there been times in your life that you have jumped off of the wrong cliff and done some things that you have moved past it, but it really hasn't moved past you because just because time goes by doesn't mean that feelings and actions haven't!
- Be careful of what you do, and be careful how you do it because if you don't there will times that you can't take it back and all you are left with is the residue of that bad choice and decision! Be wise with what you do and how you do it!
- Proverbs 11:1-3 ESV - A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight. [2] When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. [3] The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.
- Proverbs 28:13 ESV - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

“The Danger Of Lying”

- Proverbs 15:27-29 ESV - Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live. [28] The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. [29] The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.
- Genesis 27:35-38 ESV - But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." [36] Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" [37] Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" [38] Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Questions To Ponder:

1. What Are You Guilty Of Lying About?
2. What Crowd Have You Gotten In That Was Wrong?
 3. Are You On The Right Path?
 4. Do You Feel Bad When You Sin?
 5. Do We Resemble The Lord?
 6. Can You Be Trusted With Money?

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

(Acts 5:7-11)

Acts Series Pt. 6

Broadway MBC - Winchester, KY
Pastor G. Chris Brown



"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- Bible Study Lesson Text: Acts 5:7-11 ESV - After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. [8] And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." [9] But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." [10] Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. [11] And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.
- As we look at this text, there is something that once again is a reminder God will deal with you when you are doing wrong!
- God might not get you the way He gets somebody else, but don't think that He won't get you it is just your time hasn't come just yet!
- We all have to deal with our sins and God's wrath!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- That is something that a person has to realize, and that a person has to recognize that as we walk with the Lord you need to make sure you really know the Lord, but also that you can avoid doing wrong things, but if you decide to go down the wrong path be ready for the consequences.
- We all have to face some consequences in our lives, and as we walk with the Lord there are times that you have to decide what are you going to do with life when you have the options of going the right way or the wrong way? There are two roads you can go, and you have to decide which one you are going on!
- There are always those options for us all, but we have to make sure that we are doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord, and if we are not doing what is right in the eyes of God than are we really righteous?
- Do you think that God doesn't see what you are doing? Do you think that you can make God turn His face from you, or that the Lord is going to just accept you doing what is wrong and be okay with it?

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- After Ananias dies, now his wife has a 3 hour wait before now her judgment is shown to her as well, and now Peter once again calls out the wrong in Sapphira and she admitted to her own wrong doing.
- It is something of a tragedy but also a reality, that when we don't do what is right in the eyes of God we have opened the door for the wrath of God to take place. It is even worse, that she has to wait 3 hours but Peter gave her a stern announcement as well, that the same people that carried your husband are now waiting for you.
- Sapphira immediately dies after hearing the word from Peter, and not only that but those same young men that carried her husband carried her. God has a way, of making you become an example to others about this can happen to you when you don't do what is right!
- God can and will organize your funeral, when you don't do what is right in Him and don't do what is pleasing to Him the Lord will take you out!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- That is the truth as we look at the text, and as you look at life is that have you ever thought about..... God has already turned the clock off on you, but there is one more message He wants to share with you before you die?
- Have you ever thought about the things that you have done, and then the Lord has been watching you for a while and now the Lord uses His preacher to convey the last word to you right before the Lord tells you that you are going to die!
- Is it possible that there are times in our lives, that we don't even realize how close we are to death all because we don't know how to act, we don't know how to be appropriate, and we don't know how to be righteous? We think we are, but we aren't and now we are just breathing not even realizing that our last breath is soon!
- Have you thought about, you have possibly cut years off of your own life because of your own wrongdoings!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- There is something in this text, that has those kinds of implications that are you guilty of being toxic, being underhanded, being corrupt, being messy, or even being Satanic and now you see that your times is about to be cut off all because of your own deeds!
- They couldn't get away from this, and it is even colder that they didn't even die together but that she had a waiting room moment. She had all of this time to think about her side, and when Peter goes to her now you see that she admits what she has done, and those were her last words!
- What will your last words be, what will be said about you when it is your time for things to be done, and do you have enough strength within your own spirit to have positive things said about you?
- Are you a real Christian or are you a fake Christian? Are you real with the Lord, are you real with people, and are you real with yourself or are you just playing both sides of the fence!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- You can't play both sides of the fence and not expect to be burned, and there are times that you can be burned by your own fire because you were the one that lit the match!
- Sometimes people are the cause of their own fire, and that is something that happens in our lives is that we can't be mad about how our life has turned out if we were the ones that caused it to go left. People won't always feel sorry for you, when you have the cause of some stuff that has happened in your life!
- You also can't blame other people for how your life has turned out, if you haven't been right and if you haven't been appropriate how can you blame others for what has gone wrong in your life, if you have the options to do things the right way!
- People will always want to blame others for their own mistakes, or not even take responsibility for their own actions!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- You should take responsibility for your own actions, you are the one that did it so why would you run away from your own faults and sins? You can't try to shoot the gun, and then throw it away because your fingerprints will still be on it!
- Have you left your fingerprints on the wrong things, have you touched the wrong things, and have you put yourself into the things and places to where now you see that I'm lost, I'm wounded, I'm hurt, and I'm the one that now has to deal with me!
- The thing is..... When you do wrong do you feel sorry about it? When you do wrong do you feel any type of conviction, or are you just okay with doing wrong and not caring about the consequences?
- Does that have any kind of influence over you, or have you become so used to doing wrong and living wrong that it really doesn't bother you now because that has become so much apart of you?

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- Why test the Lord?

- What will make a person go out of their way to test the Lord, and why would you place yourself in that situation to where you would even want to test the Lord?
- There are some things in life that you shouldn't mess with, and testing the Lord is one of those things that you shouldn't do because at the end of the day you won't win! That is where it comes from and comes to, that at the end of the day you won't win when you are trying to battle with the Lord!
- Sapphira didn't realize the losing battle she was fighting, especially once she was confronted by the Lord and right at that moment you saw that there wasn't anything to be gained from it but a losing battle.
- It is the crux of the matter, that when you don't do what the Lord says and don't do what is pleasing in His sight there will be a penalty for you and you don't want to deal with those odds.

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- This text also shows another side as well, that the Lord will always use a Preacher to share the word and a warning. The Lord will always allow His word to get out there, and the Lord will always have His word to be shown throughout our lives, because the Lord will always give a word!
- There is always a word that the Lord has for us all, and the Lord knows how to call us out on our backsliding! There will always be a word that is produced from the Lord, that the Lord will deliver to the people from His preacher and the word of God knows how to check you and call you out on your sin!
- The word of the Lord is real, the word of the Lord is strong, and the word of the Lord is pure and you can't run from the truth! The truth will always correct us, and the truth will always chastise us, but do you want the truth or are you okay living a lie?
- That's how you have to view life, and that's the way you should look at life that I shouldn't be living a lie when I live for the Lord I should be living in truth!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- Are you living in truth or are you living a lie? You have to make sure that you are living in truth, and you have to make sure that when you are living for the Lord that you can't run from the right things!
- It is better to be right than wrong, and it is better to be right and be alone than to be wrong and die with everybody else! There are people that will want you to die with them, and because they will want you to do with them they will bring you in their own evil!
- Evil is a contagious disease, and when you start to flirt with evil and start to really entertain evil than it will pull you down and bring you down to the point that if you don't repent, than it will come back on you and it won't leave you alone!
- Make sure that you are keeping your life clean, and when you keep your life clean and when you see that you are following the Lord nothing evil will even get close to you because you follow the Lord all of the time!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5 ESV - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. [2] For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, [3] heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, [4] treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, [5] having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.
- Leviticus 19:11-12 ESV - "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. [12] You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.
- Proverbs 19:1-3 ESV - Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool. [2] Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way. [3] When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD.

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- 1 Kings 15:25-31 ESV - Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. [26] He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin which he made Israel to sin. [27] Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. [28] So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place. [29] And as soon as he was king, he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He left to the house of Jeroboam not one that breathed, until he had destroyed it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. [30] It was for the sins of Jeroboam that he sinned and that he made Israel to sin, and because of the anger to which he provoked the LORD, the God of Israel. [31] Now the rest of the acts of Nadab and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
- Judges 10:6-14 ESV - The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him. [7] So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites. [8] and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. [9] And the Ammonites crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah and against Benjamin and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed. [10] And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals." [11] And the LORD said to the people of Israel, "Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines? [12] The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to me, and I saved you out of their hand. [13] Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more. [14] Go and cry out to the gods whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress."

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- Then you see that the Church had fear, and that word "fear" in the Greek means: "Fear, Dread, & Fright"
- The Church should have a fear of the Lord, a respect of God, and a healthy fear of God because why would you want to test the Lord? The Church has to be mindful of the steps that it makes, and when you belong to the Lord when you see what the Lord will do it should straighten you up to not go the same route.
- The Church has to make sure that it is following the Lord, and the Church has to make sure that you are living right and the Church can't be so loose or think that it doesn't need any conviction!
- God will always convict the Church, and God will always give us an eye opener that we all have to make sure that we are always giving the Lord our full commitment, our full life, and doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord so that we are always following Him!

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- Those who cause divisions, in order to injure other people; are in fact preparing pitfalls for their own ruin. - Chinese Proverb
- The Philosopher Epicurus said this: "For a wrongdoer to be undetected is difficult; and for him to have confidence that his concealment will continue is impossible."
- Former American Lawyer & Politician: "When people treat corruption as a routine part of the process, you have something far worse than wrongdoing or moral failing. You have a political cancer that breeds cynicism about democratic government and infects all of society."
- The Late Bishop Desmond Tutu spoke this: "As human beings we have the most extraordinary capacity for evil. We can perpetrate some of the most horrendous atrocities."
- The Late Theologian C. S. Lewis said it this way: "As human beings we have the most extraordinary capacity for evil. We can perpetrate some of the most horrendous atrocities."

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- Those are the pillars of how we have to live, that we have to live the correct way all of the time, and when we do what is right all of the time there is so much that we will avoid, and there are things that we have to never get in our lives and as we follow the Lord, we have victory!
- We have victory in doing what is right and not what is wrong, and because of that victory we have what we need in order to do what is right but if you don't make the right choice than be prepared for what life will be like after that!
- Penalties come from our wrongness, and if we don't do what the Lord requires than we will have more failures than successes all because of not doing what the Lord has told us to do!
- Exodus 15:13-18 ESV - "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. [14] The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. [15] Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. [16] Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. [17] You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. [18] The LORD will reign forever and ever."

"The Danger Of Lying" Pt. 2

- 2 Chronicles 15:1-5 ESV - The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, [2] and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. [3] For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law, [4] but when in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them. [5] In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.

Questions To Ponder:

1. Are You Perfect?
2. Do You Lie To Yourself More Than Tell The Truth?
3. Have You Messed Up Because of Your Actions?
4. Why Do People Lie?
5. Why Do People Live Wrong & Think It Won't Come Back On Them?
6. Will God Let You Enter Into Heaven?
7. Who Do You Need To Avoid?



Wed. Night Bible Study (November 15, 2023)

“We Should Have Listened” (Acts 27:9-11 & 21-25)

Acts Series Pt. 7

[Acts 27:9-11,21-25 ESV](#)

[Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, \[10\] saying, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." \[11\] But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. \[21\] Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. \[22\] Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. \[23\] For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, \[24\] and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' \[25\] So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.](#)

Introduction:

- The Late Greek Tragedian Sophocles said this: “No enemy is worse than bad advice.”
- There are those times in our lives, and even as we look at ministry that there is a reason the Lord will always instruct a Leader to lead His people and to speak the words to His people at the right time! Sometimes we miss what the Lord is telling us because we don't think that the Leader is competent, but there is a reason the Lord is speaking because there is something that awaits that you haven't seen or experienced!

- The Late Great Nelson Mandela said it this way: “A leader ... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.”
- The Late President Abraham Lincoln said: “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”
- As we look at this text, Paul and some other prisoners were delivered to Julius and they were on their way to Italy with some Christians who had been converted. As they are sailing, then you now see that they found this ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy, and then Paul acknowledges the turbulence that they encountered on their journey!
- Adramyttium was in western Asia near the island of Lesbos. Like many ships sailing the Mediterranean Sea, the ship appears to have been a small grain vessel that would have worked its way from Caesarea along the coast until it reached Adramyttium.
- The journey was being undertaken at the end of the sailing season, so the ship ran into difficulty. Sailing was dangerous from mid-September to mid-November, and the waterways closed for travel from then until February. This journey occurred in Mid-October, and the normal route from Myra to Rome would have taken them south of Rhodes and north of Crete to Sicily.
- It was said that they were already well off course when they reached Cnidus (southwestern tip of Asia/Turkey), and even more so when they had to seek shelter on the south side of Crete. Acts 28:11 ESV - After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.

Paul’s Counsel:

- Paul tells them after the day of the Fast was over, “The Fast” refers to the Day of Atonement in the fall, when Mediterranean voyages became too dangerous for sailing vessels.
- Leviticus 16:29 ESV - "And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you.
- Leviticus 23:27 ESV - "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD.
- Numbers 29:7 ESV - "On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation and afflict yourselves. You shall do no work,
- Paul says that I would advise us not to take the trip, but then the text lets us know that the centurion took the pilot’s word over Paul even though it was Paul that much loss would occur and not to take it. They indeed faced a storm at the sea, a bad storm that caused damage, and it was then that Paul told those passengers not to go, but they

didn't listen but it was Paul that said even though the ship will be lost no lives will be lost!

- It is then that an angel of the Lord comes to Paul, and gives a word to Paul and Paul worshiped the Lord but Paul is the one that had to stand before Caesar, and to have faith in the Lord!
- Acts 23:11 ESV - The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."
- The key is that even though they are going to lose the ship they won't die, but the tragedy is how often have we lost things that we didn't have to lose because we had to still do it our own way! When will we learn that there is a reason that our way hasn't worked and doesn't work, because there is always something we aren't ready for, or even mature enough to handle!
- Paul gave them a word, but the pilot was more important than Paul but you have to watch who you listen to because some people we listen to are not giving us wise counsel, some people we listen to are the reason we have crashes! Who have you listened to that has made you crash, and has made you have to deal with a bad blow all because you have been given the wrong words and counsel and you didn't listen to the right words!
- There is a reason the Lord gives the word to His preacher, because it is important to listen to the Leader because the Lord will always reveal to the Leader what He won't reveal to the people! However the tragedy happens sometimes, that when the Leader is ignored and the people still want to do their own things it can cause dissension, it can cause rubble, it can cause strains, and it can cause things to go haywire!
- Paul wasn't trying to be brash, but Paul was being loving and vigilant because a real leader that has a love for the people is not going to be a leader that is arrogant or is not considerate to the people, but will give the wise Godly counsel. Leaders that talk to the Lord are those that have and show the best interests for everybody, but if a leader does not talk to the Lord how can that leader show the right kind of leadership.
- The text makes it clear what happens when you don't listen, and then you see that as you follow the Lord, if you really follow the Lord there are some things that are not worth taking the risk! Some stuff is not worth taking the risk, because you can certainly do what you want to do but have you thought about the ramifications of the things that you have done, but do you just want to do what you want?
- Are you just doing what you want to do, but have you thought about what it is bringing to you because as you look at the text there is a storm that is the reality, and have there been times that the Lord has had to humble you, because you did your own thing instead of doing the Godly thing.

- Paul tells them that you should have listened, and as a leader you have to step up and speak up but if you want a strong leader you have to follow the voice! The voice is there, the voice is powerful, the voice is real, but are you following and listening to the voice but are you thinking that the voice is not real, powerful, or significant to listen to! Yet, there is the guarantee as you look at the text, that Paul is reminded to not fear, not worry, and to understand that God will let you make it.
- There is the blessing in life, that the Lord will still let you make it and that is something that should make us worship and praise God won't let you down, God won't leave you alone, and God won't forget about you! The faith in the Lord, the reason to worship the Lord, and the belief that you have in the Lord will allow you to stand firm, stand strong, and stand with a spirit of knowing that I will survive!
- You will survive, and you will make it but make sure that you keep the faith and understand there is a reason the Lord will send some warnings to us that we shouldn't need to ignore! There are some signs that the Lord gives us all that we shouldn't ignore, and you know there are those times that we all can feel a sense of discomfort or discontent, and we have to make sure that we heed the warning signs that the Lord is giving us before we make some crucial and critical mistakes.
- Mistakes are real, mistakes are a reality, and mistakes have consequences but if we never take the time to think things through before we do it then we will always make the wrong choices. Before you go the route make sure it is the right route, before you make that turn or go that step make sure the Lord said it, and if the Lord didn't say it or allow it then you don't need to go in that direction!
- Stop going where you want to go, when where you want to go isn't the route that the Lord wants you to go. When I follow the Lord, then I need to make sure that I am following the right route, but if I am not following the right route then I can't be mad when the storm comes because I had my chances and opportunity to avoid it but I didn't and now I have to deal with the effects of it!
- Can you deal with the reality that you are the cause of the storm? Can you deal with the fact that you didn't follow the right path but you followed the wrong path and it caused you to make the wrong steps! You can't run from truth, and sometimes the truth is..... "It is my fault, our fault, and now I have to deal with the effects and results."

Scriptures:

- [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 ESV - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, \[13\] and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.](#)
- [Matthew 27:15-26 ESV - Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. \[16\] And they had then a notorious](#)

prisoner called Barabbas. [17] So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" [18] For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. [19] Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." [20] Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. [21] The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." [22] Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" [23] And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" [24] So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." [25] And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" [26] Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

- Genesis 3:1-9 ESV - Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" [2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. [8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"
- Proverbs 9:8-12 ESV - Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. [9] Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. [10] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. [11] For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. [12] If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.
- Ecclesiastes 7:15-19 ESV - In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his

[evildoing. \[16\] Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? \[17\] Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? \[18\] It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. \[19\] Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.](#)

Closing Thoughts:

- [The Late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said this: "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."](#)
- [The Late President Theodore Roosevelt spoke it this way: "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing."](#)
- [Oprah Winfrey said this: "Nothing happens until you decide. Make a decision and watch your life move forward."](#)
- We need to always make sure that we are listening, praying, and seeking the Lord so that when it comes to our lives and how we go about life that we are always making the right decisions and that we are allowing the Lord to lead us in the right decisions!
- You also have to understand the importance of following the right words, the right guidance, and the right standard so that you realize and understand the Lord sends me what I need, and the Lord gives me what I need, but I need to make sure that I am following His word, listening to His word, and being led by His principles!
- Make sure that as you walk with the Lord, and as you continue to serve the Lord that you are following what the Lord is saying from His word, His direction, and His leader that is the watchman of your soul!

Questions To Ponder:

1. [Can You Follow Leadership?](#)
2. [How Often Have You Taken The Wrong Route?](#)
3. [Do You Believe The Plan Of The Lord?](#)
4. [How Can You Improve Your Faith?](#)
5. [Can You Admit Your Own Faults?](#)
6. [Do You Know The Voice Of God In Your Life?](#)
7. [Do You Always Have To Be Right?](#)



Broadway MBC - Mid-Day Bible Study

"The Book Is The Guide" - Nehemiah 8:1-3 ESV

Nehemiah 8:1-3 ESV

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. [2] So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. [3] And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

Introduction:

- Theologian John Stott said this: "We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior."
- The Late Great Preacher & Theologian Charles Haddon Spurgeon said this: "I love to preach a gospel of which I feel the sweetness in my own soul." "If we are to see the church of God really restored to her pristine glory, we must have back this plain, simple, gospel-preaching."
- I believe these things to be true, because as we look at the world and the body of Christ there is something that is true and that we have to have with us all of the time and that is the word of God. Anybody that wants to make it through life, needs to make sure that you have the word of God feeding you and leading you!
- The thing about the word of God, is that we should have a crave for the word of God that makes us desire more of the word. How can you grow in the word of God, if you never spend time with the Lord, and as we walk with God if we are empty spiritually it isn't the Lord's fault!

- There is a responsibility on us all, and the responsibility on us all is to make sure that we want the word of God, that we are in the position to receive the word of God, and that we have the desire to want the word of God. You can't want what you don't try to get!!!
- We need the word of God, and because we need the word of God there is something that should be alive in us that we know that we need the word of God. We have to get to a place in our lives, that we need the word of God because how can a Church grow without the word, how can a preacher grow without the word, and how can you grow without the word of God?
- If you want to grow you have to be present, and you have to ask for what you want and then when you ask for it and get it be ready and willing to accept it! If you want it, then it is here for you but make sure that your love for the Lord matches your love for the word of God!

Historical Look

- The Water Gate led to the Gihon Spring. At the end of the exile, God moved the heart of the pagan King Artaxerxes to allow Ezra — a scribe and priest — to return to Jerusalem in 458 BC. Fourteen years before Nehemiah returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The Water Gate built the people up.
- On the first day of the seventh month, the people gathered together for a holy convocation. In the Jewish calendar, this was the first day of the month of Tishri (September-October in our calendar) in which the Jews celebrated the great Day of Atonement ('Yom Kippur') as well as the Feast of Tabernacles ('Sukkot') It was also the first month in their year, meaning that the first day of Tishri was equivalent to our New Year's Day in January.
- Leviticus 23:23-25 ESV - And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, [24] "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. [25] You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the LORD."
- Ezra 3:1 ESV - When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem.

Bring Us The Book

- Here is the key of the text, that you see that the people are gathered together and when they gathered the people told Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, that the Lord had commanded. It is there that the Church grows, and that the people grow because how can people grow without the word of God, and a Church can never be a strong Church without the word of God!

- The Church is led by the word of God and not what man says, because man can say anything but the Church has to be careful to not fall for things that are not Biblical, because anything that is not Biblical is not anything that the Church needs to do.
- The Church needs the word of the Lord, as we look at preaching we need the word of the Lord, as we look at singing it should flow from the word of God, as we look at teaching it should flow from the word of God, and the word of the Lord has the power that we need, but we need to make sure that the word is brought.
- If the Church wants the word it's got to push the preacher, you see it that the people came to Ezra and they wanted the word of God. Preaching and people go together, and when we push each other to have the word we grow together, and we are able to improve but do we want the word?
- Don't ask for what you don't want, but this is something that is important that the preacher has to bring the word and understand that the people aren't coming for the preacher they are coming for the Lord. It's not about us but it is about the Lord, and if the preacher makes it about them instead of the Lord that is when the Church will suffer, because any Church without the Lord is a Church that is not going to stay alive!
- The other side of this, as we look at this text is to understand the word of God has to be able to reach everybody not just one group. Everybody needs the word of God, and when we all have the word of God, we can grow but everybody needs the word of God, but that doesn't mean that we can't be creative in order to share the word of God.
- Every group is different, but every group can still eat from the table that the Lord provides, because when the Lord is at work and when the Lord is working we understand and we see that the Lord, is always going to feed us the word. The other side is don't rush what God is saying or doing just because you are in a hurry.....
[What is more important to you \(Your agenda or the Lord's agenda?\)](#)
- Why is it that we want the preacher to finish quickly, but we can go to other events or do things that can take up all of our time but then we want to rush the Lord! We want to rush the Lord, but then we want the Lord to give us everything and answer every prayer, but we can't give the Lord the respect and the dignity to hear from His word?
- **Have We Missed God Because We Don't Want God?**

Scriptures:

- **2 Timothy 4:1-5 ESV - I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: [2] preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. [3] For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves**

teachers to suit their own passions, [4] and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. [5] As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- Colossians 1:15-20 ESV - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-all things were created through him and for him. [17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. [19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
- Acts 20:28 ESV - Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
- 1 Corinthians 9:14-18 ESV - In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. [15] But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. [16] For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! [17] For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. [18] What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.
- Ephesians 3:7-13 ESV - Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. [8] To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9] and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, [10] so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. [11] This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, [12] in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. [13] So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Application:

- We have to always make sure that we have the word of God in our lives, and we should make sure that we are getting the word every day. No matter the season of life you are in, make sure that you have the word because you need to start the day with the word of God, and you can live with the word of God in your life.

- **How often are you in the word? Are you in the word more than you look at your phone, watch tv, scrolling Facebook, or doing other things? How much are you getting of the word of God in your life?**
- **The word of God will give you the words you need, when you have to deal with the pains of life it can be financial, it can be grief, it can be storms, it can be valleys, it can be anguish, and it can be other things that can bring us down or even weigh us down, and it is then that we need the word of God to keep us through all the different stages and phases of life.**
- **We need the word of the Lord, and we need to have that spirit of desire to have the book brought to us because when we have the word of the Lord we will always have the power, information, and the increase of our faith! We definitely need the word of the Lord, to really have strong faith and to understand what we are talking about especially as we follow the Lord.**
- **Bring us the book!**



Broadway MBC Mid-Day Bible Study **"When God Changes You" (Acts 9:1-6 ESV)**

Acts 9:1-6 ESV

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest [2] and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. [3] Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. [4] And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" [5] And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. [6] But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Introduction:

- **Oprah Winfrey said this: "The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude."**
- **Author & International Motivational Speaker Wayne W. Dyer said this: "Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change."**
- **As we look at life, and as we walk with the Lord there is the reality and the truth that we all have to understand that change is inevitable. Change is not something that won't happen, and we can fight change but God will move with you or without you but He still is going to move.**
- **Never forget that the Lord won't wait on you, but God has a way of making you start to change and start to adapt without you even knowing it because we all have to deal with change. Change is something that we need, because as we walk with the Lord and follow the Lord we can never and should never miss what God is doing because of a stubborn heart and spirit.**

- We all see that change is not something that can be bad, but change can be good especially when the change that occurs in us makes us better, makes us act better, makes us calm, and makes us more mature. Change can open up our eyes, change can open our spirits, change can make us embrace new possibilities, change can make us overcome our own restrictions, and change gives us the ability to stop just living and going off at one speed.
- The Church will get better when it embraces change, because we need to always remember when the Lord is in charge of the Church the Church is God's and God can do whatever He wants with the Church. The Lord will sometimes change how the Church operates, functions, and moves because too often the Church goes down the same road with the same attitude, but sometimes that is what makes the Church stale and stagnant when it focuses on one road and not embracing God's direction!
- Change will come because the Lord operates in change, and change sometimes needs to come because we all have to walk with a higher appreciation of God, and make sure that we are walking with the right lifestyle. God knows how to wake you up, and God knows how to make us make shifts in our lives especially when the shift is saving us. Shifts are apart of the process, and when you walk with the Lord, there will be a shift that transforms you, inspires you, and makes you wake up!

God Knows How To Get You

- Saul was the main persecutor of the Church (Acts 8:1-3 ESV - And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. [3] But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.)
- Saul was now here on this road to Damascus, but then here is the Lord that has now made Saul fall to the ground and this light was said to be an extraordinary light which was the Lord, and when the Lord appeared to Saul, it was then that Saul now is mentioning the Lord. It is interesting how Saul knew who it was that showed up to him, even though Saul had this interaction with the Lord he still knew it was the Lord.
- The Lord will always reveal Himself to you in ways you never thought of, but as we look at this text it is a reality in that when we follow the Lord, and when we really walk with the Lord we have to understand that the Lord will get to us in a way we never thought. As you look at the text, you see that when the Lord gets you there is no running or escaping the Lord once He gets to you!
- When we are following the Lord, and when we are with the Lord we do have to get to this place in our walk with the Lord that we stop trying to not embrace what the Lord is doing! God will call you out on your sin, and God will call you out when you

are not doing right, when you are doing wrong, and when you aren't living correctly God will call you out! You can't run away from wrongdoing if you keep doing it, and you can't run away from filthiness if you keep wanting to stay dirty, but we all will get called out on our wrongdoing, especially when it is affecting God's work!

- God's work will always overpower an evil person's agenda! God's work will always do that, and God's work will always continue, and God knows how to change a person that has been evil, mean, cruel, and cold-hearted into somebody that will be warm, a missionary, a changed person, and a better person! Too often people try to change a person, but stop stressing yourself out trying to change a person because if people couldn't change you, why are you trying to change others.
- God is the one that can change any of us, and as we see in this text the Lord is the one that will change those and send them on a different course. It is the grace and mercy of God at work, and is great to know that the Lord will change a person, because too often people can be wishy-washy, two-faced, and can be wrong.
- If you don't want to be mistreated then why are you mistreating people? Why is it that people can talk so much about how they love God but they can be so disrespectful? That is not the Lord, God is not the creator of disrespect or evil, but as we walk with the Lord and as we follow the Lord our attitudes should represent our Christ! Everything is about Jesus, and the wrong attitude, and the wrong way of treating people is not of Jesus!
- God won't let you get away with mistreating His children. The ones you mistreat will be the ones you will need one day, and then you look at it how Saul was the prosecutor then became Paul the preacher and leader of Churches, but a bad start will become a better day when one realizes what they have been! Sometimes you need to confess that I have been wrong, and don't just confess it to God but confess it to the person that you have been wrong to!
- Saul becomes Paul and follows the directions of Jesus, and in following Jesus we now see that in following the Lord that there has been drastic change. God will certainly make a difference, and the best thing about God is that we won't ever have to worry about living the same way, because the blessing about letting the Lord have His way in your life, is that you won't remain the same! You shouldn't want to remain the same once Jesus gets ahold of you, because there should always be a change in your life once Jesus gets ahold of you!

Scriptures:

- Acts 9:11-16 ESV - And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, [12] and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." [13] But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your

saints at Jerusalem. [14] And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." [15] But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. [16] For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

- Matthew 7:12 ESV - "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- 1 Corinthians 15:8-11 ESV - Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. [9] For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. [10] But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. [11] Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.
- 1 Timothy 1:12-14 ESV - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, [13] though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, [14] and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
- Psalms 51:10-13 ESV - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. [11] Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. [12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. [13] Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Closing Thoughts:

- As we look at life, and as we walk with the Lord we should always realize that we are on this battlefield and there are times we face some bumps and bruises, but the Lord will give us the change that we need in our lives. The Lord will make the changes in our lives, and change can grant us successful transitions if we allow it to.
- The Lord has the plans for our lives, and sometimes God will knock you off of your pedestal of pride to humble you and change your life for the better. Life can be sweet when it is focused on the Lord, but life can be bitter when it disregards the Lord because when my life is in God I can't do the same things like others!
- We all have a choice to make as we follow the Lord, and as we follow the Lord we must always make the right choices and do the right things, that are going to please the Lord, and the Lord will change you to get more work out of you! Your testimony will change when you have been with the Lord, and God will always alter your life before your life brings you down!
- Let the Lord change you, and when the Lord changes you the blessings will come and the blessing is being delivered, set free, and set apart! We all have the power to make impacts with the help of God..... so let's do the work of God!



Broadway MBC - Mid-Week Bible Study (October 11, 2023) **“The Gospel Encourages & Exposes” (Acts 17:2-8 ESV)**

Acts 17:2-8 ESV

And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, [3] explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." [4] And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. [5] But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. [6] And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, [7] and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." [8] And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things.

Introduction:

- When we look at life, there are times that the Lord will reveal to us things that we have to look at and endure in order for us to see clearly. If you are struggling with eyesight, there will be times that if you don't get it checked your eyes will continue to be strained and you won't be able to see. The best thing to do to improve your eyesight, is to go see an eye doctor that knows how to handle and fix the problem.
- **Christian Author Timothy S. Lane said this: ““But the Bible teaches again and again that our circumstances don't cause us to act as we do. They only expose the true condition of our hearts, revealed in our words and actions.”**

- The Late Theologian John R. W. Stott spoke once like this: ““We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior.”
- That is the truth of the word of God, because the word of God will make things uncomfortable, and the word of God will cause changes and will expose the truth. You can't run from the truth, because the truth will always expose you and many times people don't want the real Gospel, because the real Gospel will make you look at yourself and will make you have to deal with yourself!
- Sometimes people don't want the real Gospel because they don't want to deal with themselves! How can you be a follower of the Lord and not want to deal with yourself, and real Gospel will not allow us to remain the same because when we belong to the Lord and really belong to the Lord, there will be times and periods where we have to make changes!
- God's word is like medicine it will cleanse viruses, it will make you healthy, and it will make you stop fighting what you can't control. The word of God will get you in trouble, but the word of the Lord will also get you out of trouble because God is not a God of restraints! We need the full word of God, even the stuff we don't like but a person wouldn't be upset if they were doing what is right and not wrong, and if the word of God makes you upset then it is time to turn away from evil and do what is right in God's eyes!

The Word Has Resounding Effects

- When the word of God is going forth, watch how people will change, and God will show you the difference between living off of Biblical truths or just man's beliefs! Too often people follow what man says more than God, and when their beliefs get challenged, stretched, and even shown that they aren't true, watch how they will begin to rise up!
- This text indicates that when the word of God goes forth, and when people began to follow Jesus notice that there was another crowd that became very riled up because the word of God will make shifts! People don't always like shifts when it challenges customs, beliefs, and traditions but you see that people who want God's word really don't, if it is going to change how they live, think, and operate!
- You'll never see where the Lord doesn't use a Preacher to give His people what they need! We cannot become strong without the word of God, and the word of God won't return without impact! The word will make people upset, because God has to show us, tell us, and remind us that we as people and the Church don't follow people but we follow the Lord, and the Lord is the one that is in charge!
- Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ will produce enemies! Jesus and evil don't go together, Jesus will always have the upper hand and will always come out victorious, but understand that when the word of the Lord is going forth, and when the word of

the Lord has power some people don't like it especially when God's influence overthrows their influence! Have you thought about that, people don't like God disturbing them when they rather have people following them instead of the Lord, because when you don't follow the Lord some people have a mentality to where they think their way is better than the Lord's!

- **These people who caused problems were unbelievers, and the problem was the influence that they once had they no longer had that influence and that was then when this mob began to erupt. Not only that watch how people gather in crowds to purposely hurt God's Church and God's preacher, because when the Lord uses His servant the servant is always under surveillance and attack for preaching the truth, but it is then that the preacher has to believe in who God is and what the word says!**
- **The influence that once was there is no longer there, and the thing about is when they couldn't find Paul is when they dragged Jason out. Jason was the brother of Onias and Jason had served with Paul. (Romans 16:21 ESV - Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.)**
- **There is tension that comes in this situation because the people these venomous Jews they say Caesar as King, and nobody else was going to be the King but it was only Caesar. You never saw in the word of God that Caesar laid His life down for the sheep, you never saw Caesar preaching, teaching, or wanting the people to be saved. However when people feel like the person they follow is King instead of Jesus, you are going and following the wrong person and going down the wrong road!**
- **Too often in the Church the house of God, you will see that as well that there are people who make a man or woman king and not follow the King of Kings! Who do we follow, who is our leader, who is our Savior, and who do we live for..... Is it the Lord or people? The thing you find out about following people is, all of us are unclean and impure, and people can be very hypocritical because they can say anything, but then do something else and then still want that following!**
- **Stop trying to get people to follow you when you aren't clean! We can't find dirty people and expect to have clean hearts, clean spirits, and clean minds. This text is a reminder to follow Jesus, and to understand being used by the Lord will throw different things at you, and because of that you have to have the right foundation. If we don't have the right foundation, then we will always react, respond, and follow the wrong things because we have decided to go back at them instead of knowing standing up for Jesus will produce hatred, strife, and envy!**

Scriptures:

- 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 ESV - Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. [25] Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; [26] on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people,

danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; [27] in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. [28] And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

- 2 Timothy 3:12-16 ESV - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.
- Matthew 21:12-17 ESV - And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. [13] He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." [14] And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. [15] But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, [16] and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?" [17] And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.
- Luke 6:6-11 ESV - On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. [7] And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. [8] But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. [9] And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" [10] And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. [11] But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Closing:

- The Late Theologian John Wesley said this: "Even in the greatest afflictions, we ought to testify to God, that, in receiving them from his hand, we feel pleasure in the midst of the pain, from being afflicted by Him who loves us, and whom we love."

- **The Late Preacher & Theologian Charles Spurgeon spoke this: “I am certain that I never did grow in grace one-half so much anywhere as I have upon the bed of pain.”**
- **The Late Theologian C. S. Lewis said this: “I suggest to you that it is because God loves us that he gives us the gift of suffering. Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world. You see, we are like blocks of stone out of which the Sculptor carves the forms of men. The blows of his chisel, which hurt us so much are what make us perfect.”**
- **We have to understand that suffering comes with standing up for Jesus, but whatever you do keep on standing up for Jesus because when people are saved it makes suffering worth it. Do people really want to see people saved, and this text is another indication everybody can't handle the seat of Pastor because it is more than sitting in a seat but there is more that comes with it!**
- **When you are a servant of the Lord, and when you follow the Lord you have to always deal with backlash, tension, mean words, mean people, and have to deal with evil spirits. However, when you have been called by the Lord, you keep doing what the Lord says in spite of what you face the Lord will give you peace, the Lord will give you power, the Lord will give you strength to climb every mountain!**
- **Keep sharing the goodness of the Lord, and don't let anything or anybody stop you from doing what the Lord has called you to do. If you are facing persecution you are in good company, because when you look at the life of Jesus that was what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ faced, and even though we deal with it we can make it because we know that Jesus made it, and since Jesus made it will as well!**
- **John 16:33 ESV - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**
- **2 Corinthians 4:7-10 ESV - But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. [8] We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; [10] always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.**
- **Psalms 119:71 ESV - It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.**



Mid-Week Bible Study - October 18, 2023

“The Change Of The Guard”

Acts 17:16-21 ESV

Acts 17:16-21 ESV

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. [17] So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. [18] Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"-because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. [19] And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? [20] For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." [21] Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Introduction:

- The word of God is going to attract many people. The word of God will attract those who want it, those who judge it, those who debate it, and those who are skeptical of it but one thing is for certain that the word of God is going to attract people.
- As the word of God continues to go forward, it is important to make sure that the Gospel is about Jesus and that as a Christian you have to really be firm in your convictions about what you believe. Do you believe in the word of God, do you believe the Bible to be true, and do you really believe in Jesus Christ?
- Do you believe, and the thing about the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that as a believer of Jesus Christ be ready for people to come to you about the Bible, and you have to really know what you are talking about! You don't have to be a preacher to win somebody to Christ, but as a Christian you should have enough believe in what you

know about the Lord to where, if somebody approached you could you contend for the faith?

- When you look at life there are things that are true, but it becomes true by showing and displaying that it is true! If you say grapes are green, you don't just say it but then you should be able to show me that because when you go to the store and you see that there are grapes that are green.
- If you say that you have red plates at your house, then you should be able to show me that from going to your house to looking in the kitchen to actually see that there are red plates. If you don't have that then you can't prove that, and as we look at the Christian life you should be able to tell me how you came to know Jesus Christ, and you should be able to show me that you know Jesus Christ in your own experiences.
- When you have the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then you should know what you are talking about and you have to stand on what you believe! We are living in times that people are following various ideologies and thoughts, but as a Christian believer you have to understand what your theology is, what do you believe about the Lord, what do you believe about the Bible, and what do you want to see from people?
- Do you want to see people saved, do you want to see people changed, and do you have the desire to see the lost saved. We have to educate ourselves through the word of God, and we have to make sure that we are always growing in the word daily so that we can be fresh, full, and have the right Biblical foundation!

Paul's Ministry In Athens:

- Paul is in Athens teaching, and there are those that came to hear the word of the Lord but Paul also encountered some philosophers and they accused Paul of being a babblers, and then Paul is confronted about some new teaching that had never been heard of before!
- Epicureans taught that one ought to lead a tranquil and contemplative life, free of passions and destructive emotions. They didn't deny the existence of gods but believed they were indifferent to humanity. They were followers of Epicurus who was born 342 years after Christ, and taught philosophy in Athens.
- Stoics were pantheists and believed the divine principle was found everywhere.
- The Areopagus is the "hill of Ares" (Ares being the Greek god of war). The Court of the Areopagus was a long-established body with extensive authority over the civil and religious life of Athens. In Paul's day, it exercised jurisdiction especially in matters of religion and morality.
- They were even said to have called Paul a derogatory slang term called "Seed-Picker", and yet Paul is the one that is still preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and they accused Paul of bringing strange things to their ears and they wanted to know what did it mean.

- Acts 17:24-28 ESV - The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. [26] And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, [28] for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'
- That is what we have talk about it, we have to talk about the Lord and we are here and we are alive all because the Lord is the one that we gain our strength from, that we gain our lives from, and that we have gained all of this because of God, and since that our lives should be about the Lord.
- Is your life about the Lord? Has your life been changed because of the Lord, and the Gospel will change our lives because the Gospel will make us grow up, the Gospel will make us live differently, and the Gospel will not allow you to stay the same!
- The only reason the Gospel will make somebody feel strange, is because the Gospel knows how to correct, chastise, and wake up! The Lord knows how to convict us, but the Lord also knows how to redirect us, but you have to decide if you want to be redirected, and you have to decide if you want to change.
- The Gospel will not change everybody but the Gospel has the power to change many lives, but the Gospel is what we have to share and to present not our thoughts, not our opinions, and not our thinking but what does the word say? None of us have the power to save lives like Jesus, and we are not Jesus but we have to share what the book says and when we give what the book presents lives will get better and improve!
- There will always be people that need the Gospel, and we all need to turn our lives to Christ and not to us. We need the Gospel, and the world needs the Gospel but we have to accept all of it. We need to let people know that Hell is real, we need to let people know that sin will be punished, and we need to let people know that you can't live any kind of way!
- This is what the Gospel does.... is that it will make you uncomfortable, it will make you change, it will make you trust the Lord more than people, and you learn that there is a difference in following Christ and Culture. Christ dictates culture and not the other way around, the world would be a lot better if we started with Christ and not our feelings, our interests, or other things we need to start with Christ.
- When we start with Christ we have the right direction, we have the right ways, we have the right standards, and we have the right paths to stay with the Lord. We need to always stay with the Lord, and as we do that God will allow us to stay strong, and not be taken away by various doctrines!

Scriptures:

- Jude 1:3-8 ESV - Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. [4] For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. [5] Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. [6] And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day- [7] just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. [8] Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.
- 2 Peter 2:1-7 ESV - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. [2] And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. [3] And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. [4] For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; [5] if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; [6] if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; [7] and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked
- Matthew 7:15-20 ESV - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. [16] You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? [17] So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. [18] A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.
- 1 Peter 3:14-17 ESV - But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, [15] but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, [16] having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who

revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Different Thoughts Of Philosophy:

- **Nihilism: The belief that all values are baseless and that nothing can be known or communicated. Friedrich Nietzsche argued that its corrosive effects would eventually destroy all moral, religious, and metaphysical convictions and precipitate the greatest crisis in human history.**
- **Existentialism: Is a philosophy of human nature that identifies people as having free will to determine the course of their lives. It emphasizes individual responsibility to create meaning rather than relying on a higher power or religion to determine what is important, valuable, or morally right. Existentialists believe that the nature of existence varies and is individualized to each person.**
- **Stoicism: Has had a lasting impact on the history of thought. It influenced the development of Christian morality and theology, and also modern philosophy. Stoicism can be epitomized by three essential beliefs: (1) that virtue is sufficient for happiness, (2) that other so-called goods should be regarded with indifference, and (3) that the world is providentially ordered by God.**
- **Marxism: Marxism is a social, economic and political philosophy that analyzes the impact of the ruling class on the laborers, leading to uneven distribution of wealth and privileges in the society. It stimulates the workers to protest the injustice. The theory was formulated by Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels in their work, 'The Communist Manifesto'.**
- **Relativism: Relativism is the belief that there's no absolute truth, only the truths that a particular individual or culture happen to believe. If you believe in relativism, then you think different people can have different views about what's moral and immoral.**
- **Buddhism: Buddhism is a religion that is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama. The main principles of this belief system are karma, rebirth, and impermanence. Buddhists believe that life is full of suffering, but that suffering can be overcome by meditation, spiritual and physical labor, and good behavior to attain enlightenment.**

Closing:

- **No matter what thought that is presented, one thing is for certain that in all things is that Jesus is the center of it all!! Jesus is the key, no matter what is floated around us and no matter what we hear at the end of the day Jesus is the reason!**
- **Jesus is our Father, Jesus is our bank, Jesus is our President, Jesus is our Government, Jesus is our Leader, and Jesus is our help. We don't need to try to**

change and switch up, but we need Jesus and when we have Jesus we can stand and we won't allow crazy doctrines to stop our beliefs. It is good to know what others believe, but whatever we do don't allow Jesus to be forgotten and don't allow Jesus to be stripped from you!

- **You have to have the right foundation, and when you have the right foundation you will be able to stand and you will be able to last. Don't think that you won't be tested in your faith, but don't be afraid to stand up for your faith when you know what you know nothing will be able to make you lose the reins that God has in your life!**
- **We need to always make sure that we preach the truth, and that we teach the truth because the world needs the truth! The Lord has given us what we need, and the Lord will allow us to stand, but we have to always keep the main thing the main thing, and that is Jesus Christ!**



Mid-Day Bible Study (November 1, 2023)

"There Is Always An Extra Charge" (Acts 14:19-23 ESV)

Acts 14:19-23 ESV

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. [20] But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. [21] When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, [22] strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. [23] And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Introduction:

- When you are on a mission, you have to have a determination to complete the mission even though in doing the mission you will face times of pleasantness, hurt, or different kinds of cycles. We all face different cycles, and as we look at it on any type of mission, and because of any kind of mission we have to realize that if we are focused then we will be able to make it through in order to stand still.
- A mission for a football player is winning the Super Bowl, a mission for a Presidential candidate is becoming the next President for the United States, a mission for a person working at the post office is to make they deliver the mail to every home on their route, and a mission for somebody competing in a spelling bee is to win that bee.
- Any mission is something that is determined to be successful when the one on it does not quit, even though there will be times of hurt, times of opposition, and times of persecution the work never stops. As a follower of Christ, you have to be ready to be

on mission but understand when you speak up for the Lord, and when you love the Lord be ready to be wounded because a follower of Jesus has to make sure they know how to survive when warfare is alive.

- A follower of Jesus Christ has to be ready to survive the wounds because the wounds will come, and you can't think that you won't deal with wounds in your life because nobody avoids evil when you do God's work! God's work is more than just doing it because you love it. Do you still love the Lord and love doing the work of God when it puts you on the firing line, when people don't like you, when people hate you, and when people can't stand you?
- Many people like to play it safe with the Lord, so instead of some people speaking truth and speaking the real word of God they will speak what people want to hear instead of what they need to hear. The Gospel is not that way, the Gospel will expose, it will reveal, it will make you uneasy, it will make you sometimes unable to sit still because the Holy Spirit knows how to convict. The Gospel can't make you stay the same if you receive it, but the Gospel also will make you a target but do you have the faith to take the stones?
- The Gospel is a bloody Gospel..... Sometimes following the Lord will make you bleed! You'll bleed from the stones, there are stones that are waiting for you because you decided to speak for the Lord. Stop trying to run away from the stones, because when you follow the Lord you aren't stone free.... But you are in the oath of stones, but it is when you get hit with stones that show do you believe in the mission!
- The Late Theologian Albert Barnes said this: "It has become a settled principle that nothing which is good and true can be destroyed by persecution, but that the effect ultimately is to establish more firmly, and to spread more widely, that which it was designed to overthrow. It has long since passed into a proverb that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

Paul's Experience With Stones

- It is said that the Jews came from 100 miles away just to stone Paul. They stoned Paul, and then they dragged Paul out in the streets thinking that he was dead. "People who don't like you, will always take the long route in order to kill you!"
- The text shows they caused an impact in the city, because there were disciples that had been converted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and they picked him up and not only that Paul gets up the next day, and continues the work and then returns back to the same place that he was persecuted and stoned.
- Derbe, about 58 miles southeast of Lystra, marked the farthest point in Paul's first journey. Look at that, Paul and the disciples have still stayed the course, and that is the truth of following Jesus Christ is that: "Can you return back to the same place that you dealt with the worst beating of your life because of your belief in Christ."

- Paul returned back to the same palace that caused him to be stoned, however you see in our lifetimes that we allow people to make us quit coming to Church all because of something somebody said! Do people say mean things.... (Yes), but so do you, so how is it that you leave Church because somebody said something mean to you, when you have said mean things to others.
- Do you really love the Lord? We have to understand this in our walk with the Lord, there will be people that are mean, that are cold, and that are evil but nobody should have so much power over you that makes you leave the Church! Paul came back, and the word of the Lord went forth, and then you see that Churches were planted and elders appointed with prayer and fasting, so that the work can go forward.
- The Church would be so much better off if we focused on ministry instead of competition with each other. Too often..... You have Churches and people in Churches that are so busy focused on what each other are doing, but we would be better off if we weren't so busy trying to show off instead of building more ministry communities.
- **There are 156 Million Unchurched Americans in the United States.**
- In this text "Real Ministry" went forward, and real ministry is about equipping each other, building each other, praying for each other, and strengthening each other. Ministry is about everybody succeeding to reach Jesus Christ, is it really about Jesus Christ or is it about just you because ministry has the vision, the goal, and the advantage of doing things that benefit everybody!
- Too often people want to throw stones to hurt people, but we don't want to build things that will be positive and life changing with those stones! The word of God has caused uproar, crisis, drama, and tension, but the thing about being a servant of God can you serve the Lord with dedication and that you are willing to be a part of the solution, and not a leader to cause confusion!
- **"Who is in your group, that can pick you up after you've been stoned?"**
- Everybody is in a group, and whoever is in your group you need to make sure that the people who are in your group or the group you are around are trustworthy and can pick you up. Stop being in groups that are good for gossip, but they aren't good for ministry and to pick you up when life hurts you!
- Stop being in groups that aren't Godly..... when you see me hurting, when you see me bleeding, and when you see me down what are you going to do? That is what you need to realize and discover, stop having people in your life that are only good for times when it is safe but they jump ship when the stones show up!
- Stones are real, stones are painful, and stones are good for you! That is something that might not make sense, but it is a reality that really we have to realize and get to the place that you realize persecution is a blessing. It is not always easy to deal with, but you will never know what you will become and what you are if you have never been tried, tested, and burned in life!

- **If you have not been persecuted by enemies you wouldn't know how to survive in times of crisis! When you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you have to live with the reality of being persecuted, and if you have not been persecuted can we really trust you with the work? The work of the Lord is not easy, but it is hard and difficult but at the end of the day we must understand and realize that we are never going to escape the stones but it the stones are either going to kill us or grow us!**
- **"Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors." - African Proverb**

Scriptures About Persecution & Ministry:

- **2 Timothy 3:10-13 ESV - You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, [11] my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra-which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. [12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.**
- **2 Corinthians 11:25 ESV - Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;**
- **2 Corinthians 4:7-11 ESV - But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. [8] We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; [10] always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. [11] For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**
- **2 Corinthians 6:3-10 ESV - We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, [4] but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, [5] beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; [6] by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; [7] by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; [8] through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; [9] as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; [10] as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.**
- **1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 ESV - For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. [10] You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. [11] For you know how, like a father with his children, [12] we exhorted each one of you and**

encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. [13] And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Closing Thoughts:

- As we think about this text, and as we look at our walk with the Lord we need to also realize that as you follow the Lord don't stop professing the Lord. Ministry is suffering, ministry is hard, ministry is painful, and ministry is upsetting but when you see the effects of positivity, life changes, growth, and how people have been changed it makes it worth it!
- That is something that we need to realize, and that is something that we have to realize as we look at the text even though Paul went through that it didn't stop Paul from spreading the Gospel. The Gospel is valuable, the Gospel is necessary, the Gospel is special, the Gospel is powerful, and the Gospel has superiority in our lives but there are times that we have to deal with the pains but God gives power.
- You never see how powerful you are if you run away too much, but when you keep standing and when you keep showing those that tried and wanted to kill you that they didn't there's nothing they can do! That's real power, that even though there have been those that have done their best to stop you, to hurt you, to harm you, and basically ruin you but you are still standing, you are still alive, you are still making it, and you are still strong that is the best power to have, because you didn't allow them to break you!
- You'll never break when you have the right tools! You'll never break when you have the right foundation, and the right foundation is Jesus Christ and because Jesus Christ is your foundation, there won't be anything that will stop you, because the Lord is your strength! The Lord is your strength not people, but the Lord is your strength, and because the Lord is your strength there is no stopping you, and you will be able to testify that it didn't break me because the Lord is my shield, strength, banner, and my protector!
- Even though sometimes the Lord allows me to face the stones, but the Lord is still with me even though I am facing some stones God didn't stop caring for me. God cares for me, and God loves me even though we are persecuted it just comes with the program! It will come, but in all things the Lord is with us, the Lord gives us the strength to overcome, and the Lord grants us the power to walk, to stand, to live, and that is the key.... make sure you keep living and not quitting because you are following the Lord!
- [The Late Great Singer Mahalia Jackson said this: "Faith and prayer are the vitamins of the soul; man cannot live in health without them."](#)

- Hebrews 13:6-9 ESV - So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" [7] Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. [8] Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. [9] Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.
- Proverbs 10:24-29 ESV - What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted. [25] When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous is established forever. [26] Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him. [27] The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short. [28] The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. [29] The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers.
- 1 Corinthians 1:17-21,25 ESV - For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. [18] For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [19] For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." [20] Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? [21] For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. [25] For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



Mid-Day Bible Study - (November 8, 2023)

"God Knows How To Shake Things Up" (Acts 16:25-31)

[Acts 16:25-31 ESV](#)

[About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, \[26\] and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. \[27\] When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. \[28\] But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." \[29\] And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. \[30\] Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" \[31\] And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."](#)

[Introduction:](#)

- Author Beth Moore says it this way: "Faith is not believing in my own unshakable belief. Faith is believing an unshakable God when everything in me trembles and quakes."
- There is a reality in this, and there is something that we all will see that as we follow the Lord faith in the Lord has to be real when it is not living in an easy season. Faith in the Lord has to stand up when life is messy, when life is trying, and when your belief in God is the reason you will live in spaces of trouble.
- Where is your faith in the Lord when times are not easy? It is easy to talk big about having faith in the Lord when you aren't dealing with problems, but faith in the Lord really stands up when you are the one that is faced with difficulties, problems, and thorns in your life.

- You'll never have a real conversion with God without some real conflict! It takes conflict at times to have real conversions, and it takes conflict to have a real sense of praise and worship! Too often people want to have an easy road, but a road without some detour is a road that you can't believe when you are thrown into different pits, different valleys, and a jail situation!
- Stop thinking that you can avoid trials, if anything there are times that trials are what you need because you will see what you really believe about the Lord when life locks you down! You can be locked down physically, but that doesn't mean you have to be locked spiritually because as you follow the Lord something should be alive in you that will keep you from dying when you are faced with dying circumstances!
- It is also a reality that the Lord will use you to show others what it means to have real faith. That is the reality as you walk with the Lord, because the Lord will use you to make others see that God is real, God will change you, and God will bless you as long as you understand that my praise comes through with more meaning when I have learned how to praise through my burdens and pains.
- Stop thinking that you can't go through anything, once you align yourself with the Lord then you align yourself with trouble! It doesn't mean that you are being mistreated or picked on, but there are times you are just going to face problems. Even when you do don't let it stop you, don't let it alarm you, and don't let it make you discouraged but it is apart of the journey, but God never leaves you hanging!

The Jailhouse Scene:

- Paul and Silas encountered a slave girl who was supposedly predicting the future, and she annoyed Paul and Paul commanded in the name of Jesus because she was making profit, and it came out of her. Her owners realized that their hope of profit was gone and they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the marketplace and the chief magistrates said they were disturbing our city.
- The Jews accused them of promoting customs that weren't legal, and the crowd joined in attacking them, stripping them, and beating them with rods and after that they threw them in jail, and put them in an inner prison again.
- They are in jail, but they still started praising the Lord and while praising the Lord in jail the Lord was the one that made the jail rock, and the earth rock to where the doors were opened and everybody's bonds were unfastened! God always knows how to release from the ones that wanted to shackle you, God won't ever allow you to be stuck in the wrong place but the Lord will always let you be in the right place, even when that place is not ideal!
- The Lord can use a dismal place to become a worship center, the Lord can turn anything into a place to where He will use it to show anybody that God is in control

not you or me. It is amazing that the doors opened, and this jailer was about to kill himself, but Paul said we are all here. The jailer was going to kill himself so he wouldn't have to deal with the Magistrates, but Paul saved his life. When the Lord is in it, the Lord will use you to help those that were sent to guard you, hurt you, or even keep you in line, but nobody can control what the Lord already scripted!

- It is real that worship is real, worship is alive, and worship is true..... Worship will never not have an impact. Can you worship the Lord in dark times, can you worship the Lord in dark days, and can you worship the Lord with dark intentions around you? Don't allow the darkness take away your brightness, that is something that is real because even in your darkness when you have that trust in the Lord it will not allow you to allow the darkness to control your actions and your mood.
- When you are praising the Lord who is on your mind? Praise is something that has a specific meaning, it has a real meaning, it has a powerful meaning, and it has a personal meaning that is what praise is. Praise is something that has a very real meaning, and when you praise the Lord what does the Lord mean to you, what has the Lord done for you, and do you still love the Lord when you're in jail!
- Even in bad situations you ought to know how to respond! Paul & Silas had the right kind of response, they still decided that we are going to worship the Lord and because of them praising the Lord you see that many things changed when worship went forth! When you are dealing with storms, valleys, and troubles, how do you respond..... do you mope, do you complain, or do you start praising and rejoicing in the Lord what do you do?
- When you are being a witness for the Lord then somebody will catch on and want to be a part of Christ! This jailer then comes to Paul and Silas, and the jailer asked "What must I do to be saved?" This jailer saw and felt the power of the Lord, and now you noticed that he knew who to go to in order to understand what does it mean to be saved, and how can I be saved?
- If you walk with the Lord as much as you say..... Can a sinner or a lost soul, who doesn't even know the Lord, see Christ in you or can they feel Christ from being around you? Does your life resemble Jesus, or when people are around you do they really not feel the power of the Lord when they encounter you! You can always feel something good or bad about somebody when you are around them, some people you love to be around and some people you are just around! There's a difference!
- When people are around you what do they feel, when people are around you what are you bringing to them, and when people are around you do you have enough Jesus and Holy Spirit in you that you can make that kind of impact! People will be around what is attractive and not what is toxic, and you should look at yourself and ask yourself that question..... "Do people want to be around me or do people dread being around me?"

- What are you doing, what does your life look like, what does your spirit look like, and have you made people resent you or even push you away all because of your character, because of your spirit, and because of your actions! We need to make sure that we are always resembling Christ, and we need to make sure that our lives and our actions show how much we love the Lord, and if we love the Lord it should show in our praise, our worship, and our outreach!
- We have the power to reach people for Christ when we stop sitting down and bypassing people. The Lord will use your testimony to save somebody else, don't be afraid or ashamed of your testimony but make sure that you are letting everybody know about what the Lord has done for you. When we let people know what the Lord has done for us, it will definitely make us have so much to say and to tell all because of how much the Lord has done and meant to us!

Scriptures:

- Psalm 113:1-6 ESV - Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! [2] Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! [3] From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! [4] The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! [5] Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, [6] who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?
- Psalm 98:1-6 ESV - Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. [2] The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. [3] He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. [4] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! [5] Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! [6] With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!
- Luke 8:26-39 ESV - Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. [27] When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. [28] When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." [29] For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) [30] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. [31] And they begged him not to command them to depart into the

abyss. [32] Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. [33] Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. [34] When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. [35] Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. [36] And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. [37] Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. [38] The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, [39] "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Closing:

- We all have to make sure that we are living up to what we have said, and that when we said we would serve the Lord forever we have to make sure that we are living up to that creed, and that we have to make sure that we are always following and doing what the Lord is saying all of the time! We have to be the witnesses and the examples that we are not ashamed to live for the Lord and share the good news of Jesus Christ!
- Jesus is always good news, the Lord is always worthy of us to talk about so we shouldn't and we can't waver from the faith that we have and we need to make sure that we are always following the Lord! Let us continue to be the witnesses, let us continue to praise the Lord, and let us continue to trust the Lord even when we face those midnight days!
- Midnight is real, midnight is tough, and midnight can be trying but with the Lord we can make it through the midnight. Midnight will get us through when we know who to hold on to, and as long as I have the Lord, and as long as the Lord is with me that will make me know that we all can make it if we have the right response!
- The right response is praising the Lord, and the right response is to praise the Lord. The best response to any type of problem, trauma, or just something that knocks you down or even makes you feel down is to praise the Lord, and when we praise the Lord we realize and we understand that the Lord is good, the Lord is real, the Lord is mighty, and the Lord won't let us down!
- **Pastor Rick Warren says this: "The ultimate test of faith is not how loudly you praise God in happy times but how deeply you trust him in dark times."**

- The Late Theologian Howard Thurman said this: “There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have.”
- The Late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said it this way: “We need to pledge ourselves anew to the cause of Christ. We must capture the spirit of the early church. Wherever the early Christians went, they made a triumphant witness for Christ. Whether on the village streets or in the city jails, they daringly proclaimed the good news of the gospel.”



Mid-Day Bible Study (November 15, 2023)

"Surviving The Bite" (Acts 28:1-6)

Acts 28:1-6 ESV

After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. [2] The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. [3] When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. [4] When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." [5] He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. [6] They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

Introduction:

- It is no secret in life, that there are times that you are going to have to live with and deal with some unwanted attacks and unwanted storms in your life because life has a way of knocking you down! A life that is without trials, is a life that can't be trusted when trials come because you can't make it through life without trials!
- When you think about trials they come in various ways..... A trial can be a bad report from the doctor, a trial can be a football team on a losing streak, a trial can be a teacher struggling with a student that will not behave, a trial can be a home being destroyed by a flood, tornado, or a hail storm.
- Trials come at us from various areas and various things, but even though trials show up there is still something that we have to do is stay with the Lord, and stay with the work of the Lord because even though there are trials you still have the Lord. The power and

goodness of the Lord will keep us when we face hurts, face some tests, and face some messes that show up in our lives.

- You can't ever reach the goals of life without some struggles, and as you follow the Lord you have to make sure that you are staying with the Lord and staying with the course even when you have to deal with the snakes. There is going to be something that will attack you, that will bite you, and that will get to you but are you ready to stand up or are you going to shrink in the times of hurt?
- Just because you get hurt doesn't mean that the hurt has to be your final chapter, but when you realize and understand the value of following the Lord you get to the place that you are strong and wise enough to understand that if it didn't kill me why should I allow it to stop me. Don't let things stop you that are not from the Lord, and don't let the things stop you that were meant to kill you!
- Some stuff can do its best to test you and stop you, but that doesn't mean that you have to let it run your life! A snake is coming, but even though the snake is after you and strikes you then what is your move? Storms are like chess, just because you lose a piece off the board doesn't mean you lost the game, but there are times that you have to learn a different strategy in order to overcome the pain that shows up, because without pain you won't know how much you really need the Lord!

The Viper Shows Up:

- Malta was on the main route from Myra to Rome. The most famous archaeological remains on Malta are prehistoric or Phoenician; however, Malta also thrived under the Romans, and residential villas used in the New Testament period have been excavated.
- Malta is where they landed after the shipwreck in chapter 27.
- Acts 27:5 ESV - And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia.
- In Greek the native people are designated "barbarians" a word that simply referred in a general way to those who did not speak Greek.
- Then you realize and see that Paul gathered some sticks for a fire, and then a viper strikes Paul, and you see that they waited for Paul to die. It was when a viper struck that some of the symptoms would be: "Fever, Cold Sweats, Stomach Problems, and Convulsions."
- Some thought that Paul was a murderer, and yet even though Paul was bitten by the viper it was Paul that shook it off and even though he didn't die Paul was still alive, and Paul was still making it even though he got struck by the viper. There's the encouragement, that even though you can be bitten you don't have to lose hope because even though I have gotten bitten I have not lost my vision and hope!

- You have to learn how to shake some things off, and you have to learn how to not allow some stuff and some people to keep you down, to keep you unhappy, and to keep you stressful! You can't allow the fact that the viper bit you, to make you stop doing the work because pain doesn't let you quit if you don't allow it to make you quit!
- You have that responsibility, and it is on you to determine what will you do when the viper strikes. I believe that vipers come at us, because after you make it through a challenge, a valley, or a hard time there will always be something that comes at you that will make you try to see can you take the pain, but not let the venom kill you! Just because you bleed doesn't mean you have to die, and just because you have to face the trials what are you going to throw away that is and has been your hindrance!
- Some stuff you have to throw away, there are some people you have to throw away, there are some thoughts you have to throw away, there are some habits you have to throw away, there are some negative thoughts you have to throw away, and there are some negative words you have to throw away! Stop letting things keep you down, when the things that hurt you still made you keep going, because a person that can take a bite but still goes is a person that can't be defeated.
- Vipers are dangerous snakes, vipers have a stocky body, a large head, and long, hinged fangs for injecting venom in the front of its mouth. The venom causes a serious and potentially lethal wound, and vipers hunt warm-blooded prey including rats and mice, and some of them hunt during the day.
- Vipers have pretty scales, but they are the ones that have the most poison! How often have we encountered people who were pretty on the outside but deadly on the inside? Just because a person looks good on the outside, doesn't mean that they are good on the inside, and sometimes the people who are the closest to you are the main ones that will hurt you!
- Watch those that pop up out of nowhere, and when you look at the text it is interesting how the viper just showed up out of nowhere and watch how people will sit around waiting for you to die, but when you don't they can't do nothing with you! When you look at the text they were ready for Paul to die, but it is interesting how the Lord kept Paul alive because when God is with you that is the encouragement you need to know what didn't birth me can't write me off!
- Paul does not let the vipers get the last word..... Paul has the last word, and even though Paul should be dead he isn't? That is something that should make a Christian thankful, that some stuff should have killed me but it didn't and because it didn't you learn how to not be bothered with some stuff that tried to stop you, but because it didn't you learn how to move on!

- Some stuff in your life you just learn how to move on from, and there are those things that you can't allow yourself to be bothered by because if you allow it to bother you for too long it will not give you any hope. I just can't be bothered by things that I know were really meant to harm me, but since it didn't harm me then I will refuse to let it be the thing that breaks me or hinders me!
- You have to learn how to stop letting things stop me, and you can't allow things to stop you because you have to move on from that storm, move on from that obstacle, move on from that enemy, move on from that problem, and move on from that turbulence! The Lord has kept you here, and the Lord didn't allow you to be stuck but you made it, and you are making it because you threw it away!

Scriptures:

- Numbers 21:4-9 ESV - From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. [5] And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." [6] Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. [7] And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. [8] And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." [9] So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.
- James 1:2-4,12 ESV - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. [12] Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
- Genesis 45:1-8 ESV - Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. [2] And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. [3] And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. [4] So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. [5] And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves

because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. [6] For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. [7] And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. [8] So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

- Nehemiah 6:1-4 ESV - Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), [2] Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. [3] And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" [4] And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

Closing Thoughts:

- **The Late Great Maya Angelou said this: "I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it."**
- **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said this: "Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength."**
- **The Late Great Nelson Mandela said this: ""Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."**
- **You can and will survive the viper bite, but as you face those things from the viper you also will see and realize that even though you faced the bite..... The bite made you more determined to keep going! Even though I deal with bad things in my life, I still know and learn how to be determined and to not stop going!**
- **You and I will make it, we have what we need in our lives and we will make it but make sure that you get rid of the viper and don't allow the viper to live in your life or in your heart. Stop letting the viper have the control over you, but you rise above the viper and when you rise above the viper you'll be able to say that I went through some stuff, and I dealt with some stuff but I came out alright!**
- **You will come out of anything when you don't let it stop you, but it is time for you to throw away and not allow it to have the final word in your life. Take control of your life, and throw that viper away and continue to trust in the Lord and when you do that you have decided this is my life not the viper's and not the enemies, but I will stand, I will live, and I will survive because I trust in the Lord!**