

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Don’t Stop The Momentum”**
➤ (Acts 15:1-41) NKJV.

~INTRO~

NOW...

- As we come in (Acts 15)... Paul & Barnabas...
➤ Had returned to Antioch of Syria from their 1st missionary trip...
 - With excitement & celebration of what God had done...
 - (Acts 14:27).

THE CHURCH WAS **ONBOARD**...

- Things were looking good...
➤ BUT THEN... a crack in the unity erupted (Acts 15:1).
- A group of people wanted to manage the work of God...
➤ By placing rules around the moving of God's Spirit.
 - (It. was some Pharisees) (v.5)

AND WHILE THERE'S MUCH TO LEARN IN (Acts)...

- 85% of this chapter is spent on dealing with the cracks of unity...
➤ And then another 10% on division between Paul & Barnabas.
- We read about (2) major arguments in this chapter...
➤ (1) about God's grace & (2) about God's goals.

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN GROW IN:

IDEA #1 – WHICH HILL TO DIE ON (vv.1-5)

IN THE MODERN CHURCH...

- It's been said... that most church fights happen because of...
➤ Methods & priorities:
 - How things are done & where money is spent.

AND... WHAT WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND...

- **Is the differences** between Essentials & Non-essentials.

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FOR EXAMPLE:

- *Essentials* = Center on the person & work of God.¹
 - Deity of Christ ([John 10:30](#))
 - Salvation by grace not by works ([Eph. 2:8-9](#))
 - Salvation thru Jesus Christ alone ([Acts 4:12](#))
 - The Gospel message ([1 Cor. 15:1-4](#))
 - The resurrection of Christ ([1 Cor. 15:14](#))
 - Faith in God alone ([Heb. 11:1 & 6](#))
 - The triunity of God – found all thru scripture!

ON THE OTHER HAND...

- *Non-essentials* = Focus on church methods & practices.
- It's OK to have preferences in our churches...
 - But it's never proper to **create an enemy IN the faith...**
 - Because we don't agree on the:
 - 1) Calendar of church events (Small groups)...
 - 2) Sanctuary chairs are too tall...
 - 3) Worship instruments (I want brass)...
 - 4) Why don't we have a choir?
 - 5) Why DO we charge for breakfast in the café?
 - 6) Why DO we have 1st time visitor parking?
 - 7) Why DO you talk so long ☺

THESE ARE PREFERENCES...

- *Non-essentials.*

AND... WE SHOULD NEVER DIVIDE OVER ***non-essentials!***

THIS CHAPTER OPENS UP WITH AN ARGUEMNT... ([v.2](#)) **NLT**

- Over gentiles keeping the law of Moses (vs.) responding to grace alone.
 - So a delegation is sent to the Apostles in Jerusalem.

IDEA #2 – THE SPIRIT / THE WORD / THE CHURCH (vv.6-35)

- a) *The Holy Spirit is the proof*

¹ Got Questions Ministries – *What are the essentials of the Christian Faith?* Sourced on 05/18/2024 from <https://www.gotquestions.org/essentials-Christian-faith.html>

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(vv.6-9) – Peter with Gentiles 14-yrs earlier in Caesarea Maritima ([Acts 10](#)).

(vv.10-11) – This is happening in (AD 49)...

➤ Later in (AD 52) Paul wrote ([Gal. 3:1-5](#)) NLT

HERE'S THE POINT:

THE POWER OF SALVATION...

- Rests in placing faith in Jesus Christ alone...
➤ In which the believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit.

b) *The Word is my direction*

(vv.12-18) – We have a quote from ([Amos 9:11-12](#))

THE KEY TO ADVANCING THE GOSPEL...

- Is Grace not religion!

(vv.19-20) – The direction these believers got was simple:

- Avoid useless Old Covenant religious practices.
➤ Don't make it hard for others to get saved.
- Live a life that avoids immorality.
➤ Christ purified you... follow Him!
 - Don't follow the practices of culture.
 - ([Eph. 5:8-11](#)) = Learn / live / & leave

c) *The Church is where I learn how to follow Jesus*

(vv.22-29) – The leaders of the early church cleared up the confusion.

➤ And made it simple to follow Jesus!

(vv.30-31 & 35) – The church rejoiced when they understood God's will.
➤ Paul & Barnabas continued to teach & preach to them.

IDEA #3 – ROUND TWO ([vv.36-41](#))

ANOTHER MISSION IS AT HAND...

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- As Paul and Barnabas gear up to hit the road again.

HOWEVER...

- Some team dynamics caused a dispute that got heated.
 - The same silly stuff we get tripped up on today.

THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT...

- To know which hill to die on...
 - And the difference between the essentials & non-essentials.

THERE ARE TIMES...

- When conflict will arises in our churches, and it seems dumb!

YET...

- God is at work, and He's probably directing servants...
 - Into areas where help is needed...
 - And new growth will happen!

SO... DON'T DISCOUNT...

- What He's doing in your life.
 - And don't despise change.

HIS PROMISE IS TRUE... (Rom. 8:28) NLT

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purposes for them.”

~IN CLOSING~

HERE'S THE TAKE AWAY...

- 1) **Persecution** (Acts 8:1) spread the work of the Gospel.
- 2) **Conflict** (Acts 15:39) divided the work of the Gospel.
- 3) **Learning** (Acts 15:32) strengthened the individual in the Gospel.

~LET'S PRAY~

GOD CARES ABOUT YOU PERSONALLY...