

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“Expansion of Faith” – Series

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“The Up’s And Down’s of Ministry”**
➤ (Acts 18:1-17)

~INTRO~

TWO WEEKS AGO WE LEARNED... “*How Ministry Happens*”...

- And the way God uses our...
 - Life
 - Words
 - Service
 - Money
 - Prayers

AND IN A VERY USEFUL WAY...

- Finding common ground with people opens discussion...
➤ Before... we share Jesus!

LAST WEEK...

- We learned that... in an **“Effective Ministry”**
➤ Some respond in faith & others reject placing faith in Christ.

BECAUSE... GOD SENDS HIS WORD OUT...

- And accomplishes what He desires.

(Isa. 55:11) NKJV

*My word... that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

TODAY WE’LL SEE...

- **“The Up’s And Down’s of Ministry”**

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

IDEA #1 – MINISTRY PARTNERS:

READ (vv.1-5)

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I LOVE THIS SECTION...

- Because it reminds me of how Jesus trained & sent His disciples out.
 - [\(Mark 6:7\) NKJV](#)
 - [\(Luke 10:1\) NKJV](#)

IT ALSO REMINDS ME...

- Of that Bible verse in [\(Ecc. 4:9-12\) NKJV](#)...
 - About the value of a friend.

HERE IN [\(Acts 18\)](#)...

- God provided Paul with other ministry partners...
 - While he was waiting for Silas & Timothy [\(v.5\)](#).

AND... THERE'S A SIMPLE PRINCIPAL HERE.

- Don't embark on solo ministry!
 - Allow God to provide ministry partners.
- Partners brings accountability / prayer support / wisdom / & protection.

TWO EXAMPLES OF PROTECTION:

- 1) A single man counseling a woman with marital problems...
 - And the next thing you know... the woman has “*feelings*” for this guy.
 - Opposite-sex biblical counseling is always a NO-NO!!!
- 2) One adult with one teenager after a church event...
 - Same principal it's a NO-NO!!!
 - Never be in a closed room with one adult & one child.

Always do ministry two-by-two.

IDEA #2 – KNOWING WHEN TO STOP A MINISTRY:

[READ \(vv.6-11\)](#)

PAUL FACED OPPOSITION...

- In every town he preached the gospel in...
 - And in several cities, he was sent running.

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HERE AT CORINTH...

- God had a different plan.
 - 1) God provided ministry partners (v.2)
 - 2) God provided a place to stay (v.3)
 - 3) God provided fruit – conversions *Crispus* (v.8)
 - 4) God sent Paul to fulfill a need in this city (vv.9-10)

BUT... PAUL...

- Had to discover what the ministry focus was.
 - (v.6) says the Jews *opposed & blasphemed*

HOWEVER... THIS WAS NOT A TIME TO STOP MINISTRY...

- Rather... it was a time to discover where God was at work!

A FEW YEARS LATER...

- Paul writes two letters to the church in this city.
 - There was belief in Jesus...
 - BUT... the cultural influence kept Christians weak.

SO...

- God spoke to them thru Paul...
 - And brought them out of the darkness.

(John 8:32) NKJV

“... *you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*”

- Literally... set at liberty from sin.

PEOPLE GROWING UP IN THIS TOWN...

- Where 1,000 temple prostitutes worked the city every night.
 - Sexual dysfunction was part of the costal culture at Corinth.

AND... WHAT GOD WAS DOING...

- Was bring people out of that darkness.

IDEA #3 – BATTLE FOR BELIEF:

READ (vv.12-17)

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AS WE READ THRU (Acts) PAUL...

- Is in a continual battle with the Jews in town-after-town.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

- Why the Jews hated him so much?

THIS CHAPTER GIVES US SOME INSIGHT.

- Paul kept converting people right out of their synagogues.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- (Acts 17:4) in Thessalonica
- (Acts 17:12) in Berea

NOW... HERE IN (Acts 18) GOSPEL CONVERSION CONTINUES...

- 1st at (v.8) *Crispus* believed in the Lord...
➤ And abandons his role as Synagogue leader.
- 2nd at (v.17) *Sosthenes* believed in the Lord...
➤ And he too.... abandons his role as Synagogue leader.

IN FACT...

- In (1 Cor. 1:1) *Sosthenes* becomes part of Paul's ministry team.

INCREDIBLE!!!

RECENTLY...

- I performed a funeral, and the audience was filled with...
➤ Many people trapped in serious darkness.
 - Several trans individuals
 - A witch who felt the need to talk to me after the service
 - Some were literally borderline drunk
 - Many were visually disturbed individuals
 - AND you could see drugs had taken a toll on several

BUT HERE'S THE CRAZY THING...

- There were 11-people in a crowd of 75 that came to faith.

HERE'S THE POINT...

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- (Matt. 4:16) NLT ...
 - God's at work in darkness saving people.

AND...

- We're NOT to shrink back...
 - (Rom. 1:16-17) NLT

~ **IN CLOSING** ~

If you're stuck today...

- And recognize your need for help to move forward...
 - You can call on God!
 - (Ps. 116:1-7) NLT