

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

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Basic Ministry Truths”**  
➤ (Acts 18:18-28) NLT

~RECAP~

THE BOOK OF (Acts) IS FILLED WITH SCENES...

- From the early Church... AND... the people God used along the way.  
➤ We read the *snap-shot-narratives* spread over 30-years.
  - To paint the picture of the *expansion of faith*.

RECENTLY... WE'VE BEEN STUDYING...

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey of Paul.
- This is NOT just mindless history...  
➤ Rather... we get some basic instruction...
  - On how the gospel spread & how to do ministry.

OK...

a) WE'VE LEARNED... **“How Ministry Happens”**...

- As God uses our...  
➤ Life / words / service / money / & prayers
- (Matt. 28:19-20) NLT

b) WE'VE LEARNED...

- That in an **“Effective Ministry”**...  
➤ Some respond in faith & others reject faith in Christ.
- The Bible tells us how to discover who's in the family of faith...  
➤ (1 John 3:8-10) NLT

c) LAST WEEK... WE LEARNED ABOUT...

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

PAUL FACED OPPOSITION...

- In most of the towns he preached the gospel in...  
➤ AND... in many places, he was chased out.

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SO...

- He had to learn how to pivot in the ministry without giving up.

**NOW TODAY...**

- This 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey closes...
  - And we learn a few more **“Basic Ministry Truths”**

**IDEA #1 – KEEP YOUR WORD:** (vv.18-23)

OK... IN THESE VERSE...

- We're getting the direction of travel as Paul heads back home...
  - To Antioch of Syria.
    - Corinth
    - Cenchrea
    - Ephesus
    - Caesarea Maritima
    - Jerusalem
      - Then north to Antioch of Syria.
      - ✓ Before starting his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey.

BUT... HERE'S AN IMPORTANT APPLICATION FOR US:

- Vows (v.18) to God
  - (Ps. 56:12-13) NLT

SOME COMMENTATORS SUGGEST...

- That Paul sought the Lord for help when he was beat down...
  - (1 Cor 2:3) NLT
    - And Jesus told him don't fear (Acts 18:9-10) NLT
- And this vow was fulfilling something Paul made to God...
  - For protecting him.

MAY WE LEARN GOOD CHARACTER HERE TOO.

- The scripture is silent on the specifics to Paul's vow...
  - So we can only take away a general principal.

JUST UNDERSTAND...

- When you sign up to serve in God's house (church)...
  - And then don't show up (OR) call in...

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- You’re jacking God & His people!

(Ecc.5:3-7) NLT

- This is a **“Basic Ministry Truth”**

**IDEA #2 – DON’T BE IGNORANT:** (vv.24-26)

APOLLOS WAS ENTHUSIASTIC...

- And was a good communicator.
  - However, he only had half the truth.

SO... AN OLDER COUPLE IN THE FAITH...

- Pulled him aside to help him understand the complete picture.
  - And it led to something even greater.

**TODAY...** MANY YOUNG PEOPLE...

- Have tremendous talents...
  - But their ignorant of the past!

GOD LAYERS...

- Society with young & old...
  - (Children & parents & grandparents).

BUT... WHEN. **BROKEN FAMILIES** INCREASE...

- It leads to an increase in broken lives...
  - Which leads to more broken decisions.

THE PERVERSIVE DANGER IN OUR COUNTRY...

- I’m going to do what I think is right...
  - I’m confident in my ways...
    - It feels really good...
      - So don’t tell me about God!

**PILLARS OF THE SECULAR MIND:**

- 1) Happiness is the ultimate goal
- 2) Feelings are the ultimate guide

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- 3) Judgment is the ultimate sin
- 4) God is the ultimate guess (does He really exist)

~ Natasha Crain, *Faithfully Different* (2022) ~

CHRISTIANITY IS RADICAL...

- Because it requires a re-ordering of our entire life!
  - Priorities move from pleasing self... TO pleasing God.

AND... THE KEY TO MATURITY...

- Is consistency & perseverance
  - In doing those things that honor God.
    - Their called “*spiritual disciplines*.”

THE BIBLE TEACHES US HOW TO walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) NKJV

- Meaning... we learn to live with a purpose in view...
  - It's an eternal perspective!

THE BIBLE TEACHES US TO BE led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:18) NKJV

- Meaning... we learn to live under the instruction of another.
  - My life is filtered *step-by-step* with God's instruction.

AND THE RESULT IS... THE fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) NKJV

- Being filled with the Spirit means...
  - I live under the Spirit's control.
    - God's at home in my decisions!

THE APOSTLE JOHN...

- (1 John 2:21) NLT

**IDEA #3 – STEP OUT IN FAITH:** (vv.27-28)

WHEN GOD'S TRUTH...

- Transforms our character...
  - It's time to step out in faith.

EACH OF US HAVE A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY...

- For growth... (2 Peter 1:3-11) NLT

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**~IN CLOSING~**

APPLY THE THINGS...

- You're learning in the scriptures.

It's a walk of faith!

CAN I ENCOURAGE YOU...

- To be honest before the Lord this morning?
  - Receive from Him the help you need.
    - And start living a new life by faith.

AMEN!