

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

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Acts 1:21-26) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Decisions, Decisions, Decisions”**

~ INTRO ~

NOW... TODAY...

- We continue our study in the book of (Acts).
  - AND so far... many have been challenged...
    - To stop resisting the work of the Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ALWAYS REQUIRES...

- Venturing into new territory.
  - Because God is wanting to do great things IN you & THRU you!

SO...

- Let's remember this (James 1:22) NLT

I THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT...

- Because we're prone to forget what God has said.

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:

- Read (Acts 1:21-26) NLT

HERE'S THREE THINGS TO LEARN:

**#1 – DECISIONS WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

NOW... IN THESE FINAL VERSES...

- We get a glimpse of ***church-leadership*** before Holy Spirit empowering.<sup>1</sup>
  - And there's a contrast between human wisdom & God's.

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<sup>1</sup> Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Acts (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 5) (p.56). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

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- Peter felt like he had to *make a decision*!

YET... TIME REVEALS...

- That God had a plan... NOT a committee (Gal. 1:1) NLT.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING...

- **WE** get it wrong when we make...
  - Life decisions without the leading, help, & peace of God.

HUMAN DECISIONS ARE OFTEN...

- a) Based on self-confidence [my plans & my abilities] (James 4:13-17) NLT
- b) Based on my timing [opportunities gained thru my determination] (Jer. 17:5)
- c) Subject to frequent change [double-mindedness] (James 1:6-8) NKJV

HERE’S AN EXAMPLE IN THE LIFE OF KING SAUL...

- In (1 Sam. 13:8-14) NKJV
  - Saul sought his own will over Gods will (v.9)
  - Saul was living by sight & not faith (v.11)
  - Saul lived by superstitious feelings NOT God’s truth (v.12)

## **#2 – DECISIONS ACCORDING TO THE WORD:**

CHRISTIAN DECISION MAKING...

- Is much different!
  - It’s an outgrowth of relationship...
    - And based on principals from the Father’s character.

NOW...

- Please understand I’m not giving you a *step-by-step*...
  - Decision making model.

RATHER...

- I’m putting you in-touch with the One...
  - Who goes before us AND has a will for our lives.

LET’S CONSIDER... **CONQUERING POOR DECISIONS:**

- 1) When pressure comes...

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- Let’s see how God wants us to respond – *be thankful*
  - (1 Thess. 5:18) NLT
- 2) Resist the urge to complain AND fault find when things go wrong.
  - (Num. 11:1) NLT & (1 Cor. 10:10-11) NLT
- 3) Ask others to pray for you (Phil 1:19) NLT
- 4) Get a bigger perspective!
  - Step back from the problem & see what God has already said about it.
    - (Ps. 46:10) NLT

Sometimes we just need to get something off our chest!

- (Ps. 120:1) NLT

We don’t just want an answer... we want to understand!

- (Isa. 28:29) NLT

**#3 – BASIC DECISION HELPS FOR CHRISTIANS:**

GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK...

- Molding and making us...
  - AND He place’s good desires within our heart...
    - And the power to follow thru with the good.

- a) **Desire & Strength** (Phil. 2:13) NLT

NEXT...

- b) **Opportunity**

- Because God is the author of good... (James 1:16-17-a) NLT
  - The *idea is* things that are useful, beneficial, & literally healthy.

SO...

- When God gives an opportunity (aka – an open door)...
  - It’s full of good fruit.
    - I don’t have to make an excuse OR compromise...
      - IF... it’s from the Lord!

FINALLY...

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- Whatever God does... there's NO way to receive it without faith!
  - And that's why we're taught to PRAY...
  - So that we might experience God's peace!
- c) **Peace** (Phil. 4:7) NLT
  - This is greater than our intellect & reason!
    - It's a gift from God...
      - It's supernatural as we trust God (Mark 9:23) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT TO REMIND YOU OF THE BIG PICTURE OF LIFE!

- (Gal. 1:3-5) NLT
- God has offered us forgiveness of our sins in Jesus...
  - AND to rescue us from this evil world we live in.
- This is NOT a one and done deal.
  - Jesus continues to help us in this evil age!
- So if you're suffocating in this world...
  - Let God provide you with fresh help!

TODAYS...

- Message: **“Decisions, Decisions, Decisions”**

MAYBE YOU NEED TO...

- I. Decide to change directions in your life.
- II. Decide to embrace Jesus's offer of grace today.
- III. Decide to receive the empowering of the Holy Spirit & get in the game.

DOES THAT SPEAK TO ANYONE?

WHO NEEDS...

- Forgiveness of sin this morning?
- Salvation (to be born again from above)?
- To be Baptized (water or of the Spirit)?

~ LET'S PRAY ~