

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

NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message: “**Revelations, Roadblocks, & Testimonies**”
 - (Acts 21:1 – 23:11) NLT

~ INTRO ~

ALRIGHT...

- This title describes the events that take place...
 - Over the next 3-chapters... (Acts 21 – 23).

BUT...

- Before we dive into them...
 - Let’s remember... we’re reading about...
 - How the early church... advanced the Gospel message.

GOD USED PAUL TO...

- Teach / preach / and to do many different miracles...
 - For the *Expansion of Faith*... among the Gentiles.

AND THE MESSAGES WE’VE LEARNED FROM...

- (Over the Summer months)...
 - Have taught us about ministry.

WE’VE LEARNED...

- *How Ministry Happens*
- We’ve witnessed what an ... *Effective Ministry*... looks like
- We’ve read of the... *Up’s & Downs of Ministry*
- We’ve discovered... *Basic Ministry Truths*
- We’ve come to realize... *The Work of The Spirit In Ministry*
- We’ve seen that... *The Mission & The Mess of Ministry*... go together
- We’ve been warned about *Pushback in Ministry*
- We’ve been taught about... *Personal Direction for Ministry*

AND PERHAPS...

- The most important part...
 - **Many of you**... have played a part in **supporting Ministry**...
 - Both locally & abroad... this year.

MISSIONS (Abroad & Locally):

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YOUR SUPPORT HAS IMPACTED THOUSANDS:

- Israel humanitarian relief
- Widows in Pakistan
- Orphans in Ukraine
- Human trafficking safe house
- Church plant in Mexico
- Bible distribution in Asia
- Trauma beds in Nazareth Hospital
- Hurricane relief support (Helene & Milton)

- Contributions for media (radio broadcast & streaming equipment)

SOME OF YOU HAVE PROVIDED...

- Physical support to serve the less fortunate at Denver Rescue Mission.

OTHERS ARE LEADING NEW MINISTRIES...

- Summer VBS.
- Fall – Most Excellent Way.
- Today... Operation Christmas Child.

POINT BEING...

- The teachings thru the book of ([Acts](#))...
 - Has launched many of you... into a deeper life of faith.
- You're put into action what you're being taught!
 - And God is pleased as you've responded to Him.

([2 Cor. 8:6-15](#)) NLT

~ STUDY ~

NOW... TODAY...

- We enter the last segment of Paul's Mission in the book of Acts.

PAUL COMPLETED...

- His 3rd Missionary Journey and he's headed back to Jerusalem...
 - To drop off a financial donation from the Gentile Churches.

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HERE’S A FEW SNAP-SHOTS TO OBSERVE...

IDEA #1 – REVELATIONS: (Not the Bible book)

(Acts 21:1-3)

- Simply describes the route Paul traveled on to Jerusalem.

HOWEVER...

- Along his travel route...
 - Believers were warning Paul...
 - What would happen to him in Jerusalem!
 - (Acts 20:22-24) NLT
 - (Acts 21:4) NLT
 - (Acts 21:10-12) NLT

ONLINE DICTIONARY DEFINES revelation...

- As a supernatural disclosure to humans.
 - Paul was simply being warned of the difficulty ahead.

IDEA #2 – ROADBLOCKS:

TEXT (Acts 21:15-36)

PAUL’S **ARRIVAL**... IN JERUSALEM... GOES BAD!

- Exactly like he had been warned about.

FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR BIBLE...

- As I arch over the scene from the **NLT** version.

(21:18) Paul meets with the Jerusalem church elders.

(21:19-20) He gives a detailed account of ministry... to the Gentiles.

- The Jerusalem leaders were excited...
 - But expressed serious difficulty...
 - About letting go of the past –The Law of Moses.

(21:21 & 30) Lies & accusations surface about Paul & circumcision.

- This scene happened 27-years after the church was birthed...
 - It was about (AD 60).

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BUT... IN (AD 58)...

- Here's what Paul said (Rom. 2:25-29) NLT
 - He was just calling out *hypocrisy*!

NOW... AS THE CHAPTER CONTINUES ON...

- The struggle became physical in the Temple courtyard...
 - And Paul was beaten by a crowd of Jews (21:30-32)
 - (v.33) He was arrested.
 - (vv.35-36) The Jewish mob wanted him killed.

YET...

- Thru all of this drama & physical abuse...
 - His focus to testify of Christ remained.

HERE'S THE POINT...

- Paul's commitment to Christ...
 - Was a result of the Holy Spirit working in him.
 - And the same Holy Spirit works in you!

PAUL WAS A SERVANT OF THE LORD...

- And our God is the one who gave him power!

(Ps. 89:17) NLT

“You are their glorious strength. It pleases you to make us strong.”

IDEA #3 – TESTIMONIES:

TEXT (Acts 21:39 – 23:11)

FOUR testimonies:

- 1) *Testimony of his Conversion* (21:40 – 22:23)
- 2) *Testimony of his Citizenship* (22:24 – 29)
- 3) *Testimony of his Belief in the Resurrection* (22:30 – 23:10)
- 4) *Jesus' Testimony to Paul* (23:11) NKJV

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HERE’S THE TAKEAWAY...

- God’s hand was on Paul’s life arranging the details & timing...
 - For how Paul would minister in Rome.
- And in another *life-or-death* situation (ship wreck)...
 - God’s word brought reassurance & strength to Paul!
 - (Acts 27:22-25) NKJV

~ IN CLOSING ~

FOR THOSE OF YOU RUNNING HARD...

- Don’t give up! For at the right time you will reap a harvest.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT PARTICIPATING...

- I encourage you to re-evaluate your daily choices about Jesus.

MAY YOU LEARN TO FIND JOY IN JESUS!

- If you need prayer the pastors are here to serve you.

AMEN!