

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

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays 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):**

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

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

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

**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).

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

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

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

**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!