

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

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Making It Personal”**  
➤ [\(Acts 26:1-32\) NKJV](#)

**~INTRO~**

ALRIGHT... AS WE'VE STUDIED [\(ACTS\)](#)...

- We've learned about the nuts & bolts of ministry...  
➤ Thru the life examples of Peter & Paul.
- AND... we've understood the stories from the early church...  
➤ Which encourage us & teach us how to live for Christ today!

CHURCH AS WE BEGIN TODAY'S STUDY...

- I want to prompt you to pay attention & write something down...  
➤ That God wants YOU... to put into action this week.

NOW...

- In the final chapters of [\(Acts\)](#)...  
➤ We learn how to advance the gospel personally.

TODAY...

- The scene continues from where we left off last week in...  
➤ [\(Acts 25:23-27\)](#)
- Paul was brought into a Roman Court by Festus – Governor –  
➤ Who wanted a second opinion from his buddy King Agrippa II...
  - As to what should be done with Paul.

PAUL DIDN'T...

- Violated any Roman Law...  
➤ BUT he was a nuisance to the religious leaders of Judaism.
  - Because he converted to Christianity...
    - And followed Christ who fulfilled the OT Prophecies.

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TODAY...

**IDEA #1 – LIFE BEFORE CHRIST:**

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PAUL WAS NO STRANGER...

- To persecuting the church and tormenting those...
  - Who believed in Jesus.

UNTIL JESUS OPENED HIS HEART IN (Acts 9)...

- And Paul had a personal encounter with Christ.
  - Then he was a changed man after that!

NOW... JESUS...

- Told the disciples what would happen to them after He was gone.
  - (Luke 21:12-15) NLT

THIS IS EXACTLY... WHAT PAUL WAS EXPERIENCING.

- He was telling the Governor & the King about God...
  - Thru his personal testimony:
    - (vv.4-5) *I lived a religious life*
    - (v.9) *I did many religious things*
    - (vv.10-11) *I hurt innocent people*

**What life before Jesus looks like:**

(Eph. 2:1-3) NLT

- #1) WE live with a temporary view...
  - And waste life on things that have no eternal value.
    - (money / time / activities)

- #2) WE live under the control of Satan.

THE BIBLE TEACHES...

- Satan rules over the inward PERSON who's not saved...
  - Making them a slave to sin!

- #3) WE live according to basic instincts of what feels good...
  - And nurture impulses that run contrary to God's revealed will.
    - (sex / drugs / rock-n-roll)

(Gal. 5:19-21) NLT

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- This describes five-categories of sin in a life apart from Christ:
  - 1) *Sexual sins*
  - 2) *Superstitious sins*
  - 3) *Violent sins*
  - 4) *Manipulative sins*
  - 5) *Social sins*

**HERE'S THE POINT...**

- People living in these conditions are NOT saved!
- When a person accepts the gift of grace from Christ...
  - Their freed from the practices that cause pain...
  - And given a new nature to choose life!

(Luke 24:45-47) NLT

**IDEA #2 – COMING TO CHRIST:**

PAUL CONTINUES HIS TESTIMONY... (vv.12-14)...

- Arriving at the place... of calling Jesus lord (v.15).

JESUS THEN GIVES PAUL...

- His calling (v.16) NLT...
  - *My servant and witness.*

THREE THINGS TO UNDERSTAND:

- 1) *Servants*
- 2) *Witnesses*
- 3) *Mission*

**SERVANTS ARE COMMITTED TO CHRIST.**

- They follow the Good Shepherd...
  - AND are teachable as they learn of His ways.
- Servants can be taught & corrected & they don't need the limelight.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

**VOLUNTEERS ERODE THE LOCAL CHURCH FROM WITHIN...**

- Because they're self-serving individuals.

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- They abandon their service when something better arrives...
  - They’re not dependable...
    - And many times they won’t receive correction.

**GANG... THE CHURCH IS NOT LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

- Because Jesus only appoints servants.

**AND WHAT DO HIS SERVANTS DO?**

- We tell other people what we know about Jesus.

➤ [\(Matt. 10:27\) NLT](#)

**YOU SEE...**

- It’s the *still small voice of the Lord that speaks to our heart...*
  - And we can’t keep it in.
- Jeremiah’s heart burned when he tried to be quiet [\(Jer. 20:9\) NLT](#)
- Luke & Cleopas experienced the same thing [\(Luke 24:32\) NLT](#)

**MAY WE UNDERSTAND...**

- That our relationship with God was never intended...
  - To be hidden from the world around us... we’re to be *witnesses*.

**THE BIBLE SAYS...**

- [\(Matt. 5:13-16\) NLT](#)

**HERE’S THE POINT...**

- [\(v.18\)](#) we’ve been called to live on *mission*.

**IDEA #3 – LIVING FOR CHRIST:**

**PAUL SAYS [\(v.19\)](#)...**

- I *obeyed* when God saved me...
  - I didn’t dodge His call.

**BUT... HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES THE REALITY...**

- That following Jesus can be a struggle... at times [\(v.21\)](#).

[\(John 15:18-19\) NLT](#)

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ANYONE WHO LIVES A LIFE OF FAITH...

- Will get the attention of others (v.24) Festus & (v.27) Agrippa.

~IN CLOSING~

PAUL HAD A HEART FOR THE LOST...

- (vv.28-29).

MAY WE CHOOSE TO LIVE FOR CHRIST...

- In our daily decisions...
  - And may the fruit of His presence...
    - Spill into those around us.