

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

~READ TEXT~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to [\(Acts 4:32 – 5:11\) NLT](#)

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“What Kind of Faith Do You Have?”**

~INTRO~

NOW... AS WE MAKE PROGRESS...

- In our study of the book of [\(Acts\)](#)...
 - We're at a scene... that's showing believers...
 - Getting excited about Jesus!

AND THE MESSAGE SPILLING OUT OF THEIR LIVES...

- Was contagious enough... to catch the attention of others...
 - Because it was an authentic faith.

SO... AT THIS POINT...

- The church... within just a few months of its birth...
 - Swelled to more than 5,000 men + women + children!

TODAY...

- We're reading about the atmosphere AMONGST those early believers.
- It's an inspirational recap on how Jesus...
 - Makes a difference in & thru the Church.

THE CHURCH IS NOT DEAD...

- Because Jesus is NOT dead!
 - Amen!?!?

HOWEVER...

- We must also be aware that when God is at work...
 - Satan will show up to derail the progress...
 - And he often works within the four walls of the church.
 - [\(Acts 5:1-11\) Ananias & Sapphira.](#)

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HERE'S THE FIRST HALF OF OUR TEXT:

- Read ([Acts 4:32 – 5:11](#)) NLT

IDEA #1 – GENUINE FAITH: ([vv.32-37](#)) NLT

OK...

- I've taught you to know your Bible.
 - So... let's put in motion the OIA method...
 - To understand what we're reading.
 - Observation
 - Interpretation
 - Application

#1...

- ***OBSERVATION*** – what do we see in this **CONTEXT** ???

WELL... A FEW THINGS... THAT CATCH OUR EYE:

- ([v.32](#))
 - The believers were united & shared everything.
- ([v.33](#))
 - They heard the story about Jesus & God was blessing them.
- ([vv.34-35](#))
 - The people had hearts full of generosity & helped each other.
- ([vv.36-37](#))
 - One example of generosity – Barnabas.

HERE'S THE POINT...

- We have a Biblical account of generosity that's inspirational.
- We're being spiritually stimulated with a scene that pleased God.
 - A unified / loving / generous church.

NOW...

- In the [epistles](#) we get instruction for Christian living.
 - So... let's follow the example forward and capture the lesson.

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TURN TO (Philp. 1:3-10) NLT

- Paul models the heartbeat of the Church in this book.
 - As he focuses on the hallmarks of Christian living.
- We see him promoting **joy** from a Christ-Centered-Life...
 - To his ministry partners:
 - a) On his mind (v.3)
 - b) In his heart (v.7)
 - c) In his prayers (v.9)

HE WROTE THIS...

- So they could understand Christian living...
 - When it got tough.
 - And this church supplied his needs – **generosity in action** –
 - During a season of tough living for Paul.

NEXT MONTH (May 2023)...

- I'm taking another group of 35-people to Israel...
 - And we're delivering a financial gift to the Christians...
 - In Nazareth.

A TOWN OF 80k PEOPLE...

- Where 70% are Arab Muslims.
 - And only about 30% claim Christianity.

TODAY...

- Many people in *church* are ignorant...
 - About believing in Jesus.
- AND their life... makes no difference in this world!

GANG...

- I want you to be fruitful for Jesus in all that you do!
 - And to the best of my ability & thru the gracious hand of God...
 - I'm going to teach you the Bible.
 - And I hope you put into action what you learn.

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FLIP AHEAD TO (1 Tim. 6:2b-10) NLT

IDEA #2 – LESSONS TO LEARN:

HONORING GOD WITH YOUR FINANCES...

- Is the way in which believers are to follow!
 - Hands down there's **no Biblical argument to the contrary!**

NONETHELESS...

- Some... may be surprised to know... that while the church...
 - Often talks about “*tithes*” really there's minimal N.T.
 - Mention of only 10% (Matt. 23:23) NLT

RATHER...

- The NT giving Jesus praised is in (Mark 12:41-44) NLT
 - It's generous... 100%... **all-in giving!**

SO...

- If pastors mention the 10% tithe...
 - Please recognize that's a gracious starting place...
 - To help three types of believers:
 - 1) New Believers – to help them get going.
 - 2) Weak Believers – to help with baby steps.
 - 3) Selfish Believers – to help them repent.

POINT BEING...

- We're far beyond an ignorant debate of financial giving as a Christian.
 - BUT... if you're the person still wrestling with this...
 - And genuinely you want to hear from Jesus!?!?

I'LL READ YOU WHAT HE SAID...

- (Matt. 6:19-34) NLT

IDEA #3 – CORRUPT FAITH: (Acts 5:1-11)

THE EXAMPLE OF ANAIAS & SAPPHIRA...

- Doesn't need a lot of commentary.

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THE SIMPLE FACTS IS...

- They were selfish & crafted a plan to trick the church.
 - They wanted to appear like they were spiritual & being generous.
 - But God saw thru it.

~IN CLOSING~

CAN I REMIND YOU...

- That I'm a pastor teacher in this church.
 - And my privilege is to rightly divide the word to you.

IT'S A FEARFUL THING...

- To speak for the Lord.
 - (James 3:1) NLT

GOD HELP ME...

- If I do not accurately teach you the full counsel of God!

GOD HELP YOU...

- If you neglect so great a salvation by disregarding Biblical truths.
 - (Heb. 2:1-3) NLT

CHURCH... WE'RE HERE FOR...

- Hope & healing...
 - We're not here to be perfect... but we are to grow.

SO... IF GOD HAS SPOKEN TO YOU TODAY...

- In an area where you're struggling to be faithful...
 - Would you be honest...
 - And raise your hand so I can pray for you.