

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 today's 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.

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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.