

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

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“The Word Unleashed.”**
 - (Acts 8:26-40).

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:

- Read (Acts 8:26-40) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

NOW...

- In our study thru the book of (Acts).
 - We've seen God working in & thru His people!

AS WE'VE READ...

- The first few months of the church...
 - There were more than 5,000 people that came to faith in Jesus...
 - As the Gospel changed lives.

EXACTLY...

- What's happening around here!
 - God is breaking thru hard hearts...
 - And people are getting **turned on**... to Jesus.

LAST WEEK...

- The Fall Semester of the School of Ministry started...
 - AND there are 18 men & women students...
 - Committed to this 1½ year program.

OK...

- Remember what I've taught you.
 - The big picture **OR** the overview of (Acts)... looks like this: ¹

- 1) The Birth of the Church (Acts 1 – 7)...
 - Covers the first few months of the church. ²

¹ Swindoll, Charles R., Insights on Acts (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 5) (pp. 4-5). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., © 2016.

² Ibid., (p.14).

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- (Growth / excitement /& the realization of problems began.)

2) The Rise of the Church (Acts 8 – 12).

- Evangelism is set in motion as a response to persecution.
 - (Acts 8:4) NKJV

3) The Expansion of the Church (Acts 13 – 20).

- Organized global missions began.
 - (Acts 13:2) NKJV

4) The Challenges of the Church (Acts 20 – 28).

- (Conspiracy against Paul & push back against the Gospel.)

TODAY... WE SEE THE MINISTRY OF PHILIP.

- A deacon in charge of bread distribution program – (Acts 6:5)...
 - Who spoke up during persecution... as an evangelist (Acts 8:5)...
 - And now is being used on a special assignment (Acts 8:26).

HERE’S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:

- Read (Acts 8:26-31) NKJV

HERE’S A FEW SIMPLE THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

#1 – God Will Lead : (v.26 & v.29)

GOD DESIRES TO SHOW US THE WAY.

- We have a few samples from the O.T.
 - AND Jesus said it Himself – “*I Am the Way...*” (John 14:6) NKJV

1. Under Moses during the first 1½ years of wilderness wandering...

- God spoke thru Moses **to LEAD** His people (Num. 13:17-25) NKJV
 - a) He told them where to go (v.17)
 - b) What to do (vv.18-20-a)
 - c) Be of good courage (v.20-b)
 - d) Bring back fruit (v.20-c)
 - e) Stirred their faith – @ Hebron (v.22)

2. Young Samuel (12-yrs old +/-) in (1 Sam. 3:1-10) NKJV

- Samuel ministered before the Lord (v.1)...

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- But... he had never heard Gods voice before (v.7) NLT.

BY WAY OF APPLICATION...

- As you become familiar with Gods word...
 - You will come to know God’s voice.

#2 – Be Available: (v.30)

- Being helpful to others opens doors to speak truth...
 - Your kindness to others... is a door of access.

#3 – Listen to What People Are Asking: (v.34)

THERE’S NOTHING WORSE...

- Then answering questions people are not asking!
 - (You become irrelevant).

IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS...

- Be present... Your distractions turn others off!
 - Give them your attention OR don’t have the conversation.

#4 – Don’t Overthink It: (v.35)

I LOVE TRAINING YOUNG MEN IN THE MINISTRY.

- Because I’m finally at a place in life...
 - Where I’m older than the average age (37 in our city).

THE LESSONS...

- Just be you!
- *Open your mouth* AND share what you know about Jesus.

#5 – God Brings Forth the Fruit: (v.36)

(1 Cor. 3:6-7) NLT

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.”

~ Author Greg Koukl ~

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“I want to put a stone in his shoe. All I want to do is give him something worth thinking about. I want him to hobble away on a nugget of truth that annoys him in a good way, something he can’t simply ignore because it continues to poke at him.”

3

OK... LEARN THIS LESSON...

- It’s not our job to take every gospel interaction to the end zone.
 - Our job is just to put a stone in the shoe.
 - Just be available for God to speak thru.

#6 – Don’t Pad the Truth: (v.37)

- This is the biggest mistake I see Christians make.
 - Some try to soften the Gospel message!
 - They take the sting out of it before the gift of Grace.
- (You don’t have to really have to repent just come to Jesus.)
 - Sounds so lovely... my sin & Jesus – WRONG answer!!!

CHURCH...

- God has called us to be accurate & honest.
 - Knowing that I am a sinner separated from God...
 - Reveals my need for God’s Grace.
- If you’re NOT thirsty... who needs water!?!

#7 – Don’t Be Religious: (v.38)

SURPRISE...

- You can baptize other people.
 - You don’t have to be a pastor...
 - You just have to understand the one prerequisite (v.37).

~ IN CLOSING ~

(v.40) Ministry success breeds ministry success.

³ Stand to Reason – Tactics and Tools by Greg Koukl. Published on 02/21/2013 at <https://www.str.org/w/a-stone-in-his-shoe> © 2023.

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- God gives you a greater hunger for more...
 - Once you’ve...
 - *tasted and seen that the Lord is good* (Ps. 34:8) NKJV
- This is why people surrender to Jesus.

DO YOU NEED TO SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD...

- In your life today?