

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

Acts Of The Apostles

Day 22: Acts Chapter 1

Meditation

“The promise of the Holy Spirit was given to the believers and the promise of Jesus returning one day to earth to take us all home to heaven was also delivered to us all by the angels. It would only take 10 more days for Jesus’ Followers to receive the first promise, the infilling of the Holy Spirit within them all on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus had been with them for 40 days since His Resurrection and He was now in Heaven again. Today we just like them, are awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit in all of His Fullness & Glory on the Day of Pentecost – Just four weeks away now.

I hope you are preparing as I am preparing to await a deeper understanding, a deeper abiding in God’s Spirit on Sunday May 31, 2020! I want to be His Chosen Follower, like Matthias. What an honor, what a privilege, what a responsibility to be His Chosen & Beloved! Let us go forth this day as His Humble Obedient Servants To Do His Will as His Spirit directs us!”

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Acts Of The Apostles

Day 23: Acts Chapter 2

Meditation

“The Day Of Pentecost came upon the believers in the Upper Room when they were gathered together in Unity with God’s Spirit and with one another. There is no other way for a group of Christ Followers to experience all that God has for them unless they are one in His Spirit. God’s Blessings, God’s Presence, & God’s Gifting of His Church to each individual believer only comes when we are in Unity: **“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

Notice also that the very first gifting of the Spirit is tongues. However, notice that this gifting is first and foremost, an actual **“human language”** to communicate the Gospel – God’s Good News! Later, in other books of the New Testament we read about the other gifts, and at the end of the list of gifts, we read about a **“prayer language”** or **“prophecy language”** given to **“some”** by the Holy Spirit. While it is often miscategorized by some Christians as last meaning least, which it is not; it also is often miscategorized by other Christians as essential proof of God’s Holy Spirit dwelling in His Fullness in the life of a believer. However, upon further inspection of the doctrinal facts, both groups are in error. The gift of **“tongues”** as it is most frequently called by almost every believer, is given either as a real **“human language”**, or the above mentioned **“prayer language”** or **“prophecy language”**; but always only to **“some”**, and never to **“all”**! Further, both groups, those **who receive** the gift of **“tongues”**, and those **who do not receive** the gift **“tongues”**, are both equally blessed and fully filled by the same Holy Spirit!

Then there is the responses of the unbelievers: belief, and continued unbelief - even to the point of mocking the believer who tells them the Good News; even to whom a miracle accompanies their preaching and teaching. **Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ... we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”** So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, **“Whatever could this mean?”** Others mocking said, **“They are full of new wine.”**

Acts 2:7-8 & 11b-13 (NKJV)

But no one will come to the knowledge of their own predicament, in relation to the God Who created them, unless someone preaches and teaches them. And so, the Holy Spirit prompted and spoke through Peter on the Day of Pentecost! They must be convicted of their moral standing and the sins they cannot atone for or make recompense for before God. They must be instructed of what God has done for them in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His Only Son. They must be given an opportunity to repent of their former thinking, ways, and intentions and be offered a new relationship with God, an eternal one. This is precisely what Peter did on the Day of Pentecost: **Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and Brothers, what shall we do?" Then Peter told them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. For the Promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, **"Be saved from this perverse generation."** Acts 2:37-40 (NKJV)

The result of Peter's williness, service, love, and obedience to God's Spirit was dramatic: **"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about 3,000 souls were added to them."** Acts 2:41 (NKJV)

The response of Jesus' Followers was to remain together in unity to hear and learn from their leaders sound doctrines of the faith. They remained in daily fellowship, gathering together for the breaking of bread (meals & communion) and in prayer. They held all of their money and possessions in common for the good of all not individuals. They came together daily to meet at the temple (church), they shared their dwellings for the purpose of meals and church services. They remained full of joy and gladness and they were all humble of heart. And they continually praised & worshipped God: **"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."** Acts 2:42-47 (NKJV)

The result of all of this was a two-fold blessing from God each day: **1) They found favor in their community among all their neighbors and fellow citizens & 2) The number of people being saved and added to their church family grew.**

"Let us truly become the People of God by becoming obedient to His Will for our lives individually, and together collectively as His Family! Let us seek the Unity in all things and the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives this Spring as we together '*On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire Awaiting The Coming Of The Fullness Of God's Spirit In Our Lives!*'"

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Acts Of The Apostles
Day 24: Acts Chapter 3
Meditation

"Let us pray for daily opportunities to offer hope to the lost & broken masses around us! Let us pray daily to remain holy and obedient people willing to pray for and offer God's Healing to all of those in our community. Let us pray for the True Faith to ask for **"Signs, Miracles, & Wonders"**, so that we may offer proof of God's existence to combat a doubtful, humanist, skeptical worldview, which is being taught in our schools, colleges, universities, and media. When God Performs His **"Signs, Miracles, & Wonders"**, let us tell others about God's Intentions toward them by offering boldly **His Good News**, like Peter & John!

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
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**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 25: Acts Chapter 4**

Meditation

Question: **“Am I really His devoted Follower?”** The answer rings hollow in my mind and heart this day. **“When I compare the limits to which Jesus’ original followers were willing to testify to His Name and His True Identity, even under pain of persecution, imprisonment, torture, and even the possibility of death; and then I evaluate my response to this latest removal of my ‘supposed right’ to worship and speak the Truth in His Name and how I have responded, I feel like a failure, a sellout, a comfortable hypocrite!”**

Note Peter & John’s Response to the court trial before the authorities: **“So, they (authorities) called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the Name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard!’”**

So, what was the response of the Church (the brothers and sisters in faith) to the report of Peter & John: **“And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So, when they heard their report, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ... ‘Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your Servants that with All Boldness they may speak Your Word, by stretching out Your Hand to Heal, and that Signs and Wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with All Boldness.”**

Curiously, just like before, their next response was to continue to remain in Unity and share all things for the common good and continue their Mission to bring God’s Kingdom to Earth: **“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”**

Question: **“What should be my next reaction to fear, to intimidation, to the suppression of my right to gather together as the Body of Christ and testify faithfully to His Name, no matter what I am threatened with?”**

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**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 26: Acts Chapter 5**

Meditation

“Admonition to me today: ‘Be careful not to tempt the Lord with my rebellious thoughts, intentions, desires, and actions! The example of such open disobedience is seen clearly in the lives of Ananias, with Sapphira. Sometimes, I think I take for granted that I can do what I want and then later just go back to God and seek forgiveness and all will be well between me and Him again! But the warnings are replete throughout all of scripture to be openly disobedient and to treat God’s grace with contempt will eventually not be tolerated by God, and I risk being eventually cut off from God’s long suffering, mercy and grace.” Please read at a minimum these two passages: Romans Chapter 6 & Hebrews Chapter 2

The followers of Jesus continued yet again, day by day to preach, teach and heal in His Name. What followed – more healings, more conversions to the faith and family of God, more blessings from God, and you guessed it more persecution as well! They trusted God no matter the outcome to be with them. In this case they are miraculously healed, but God’s decision to free them was not a prerequisite for their obedience and service. Like the three men of old, the followers of Jesus were in effect saying to the authorities: ***Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up!”***

Question: ***“Have I made my own comfort, my standing before community, my reputation, my freedom to stay alive, more important than being faithful to God’s calling and ownership of my life?”***

Great ending to the story, right? No! The followers of Jesus in their day were simply rearrested again! They were told this time to recant Jesus Name and stop opening the church doors, stop preaching and teaching in public! Their response to these “threats” and “unlawful orders” – PRICELESS!

“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. Act 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

The authorities response, typical – more persecution and torture! But the followers of Jesus’ response – ***“So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.***”

Dear Lord, grant me and those I lead the boldness, the courage, the fortitude, the power to never stop gathering together, and boldly teach and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ Our Lord!

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
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Acts Of The Apostles
Day 27: Acts Chapter 6
Meditation

The first indicator of a break in Unity and a Problem among the believers occurs among the Family of God since the Day of Pentecost and the beginning of the Church. A Dispute broke out: 1) Over whom should be served? 2) Should all be served equally? 3) Who should do the manual work in the church? and 4) Who should do the preaching and teaching among the Body of Christ?

Question: ***“How were these things resolved?”*** Answer: They didn’t hesitate to bring this disagreement to the leadership the apostles (pastors). Everyone respected and listened to their decision and the problems were immediately resolved and Unity returned to the Family of God. Note: There were no group meetings, committees, back room power moves, group decisions, or even a church vote. The people trusted God to inform those He chose to lead, and they followed their lead!

Deacons, like pastors have the ability to prophesy, preach, teach, baptize, heal, & sanctify by the giving of God’s Spirit by the laying on of hands, all under the Holy Spirit’s Anointing & Power. Stephen is the greatest example of this apostolic succession of spiritual anointing and power from Jesus to His Followers!

Note what the authorities do in every age, when their power is threatened, or their ability to keep people living in fear and dependent upon them, and they know they are losing control over the people; they merely give a little power to a select group, so that they will have the power to turn in their fellow citizens and neighbors, and then to lie and falsely accuse them of hurting others and their community, or disobeying the government! Does this sound familiar to anyone today?

We as a people of faith are currently wondering what to do, believe and obey our government officials, and continue to watch the nation and the people die due to lack of work, failing economy, lack of finances, and severe unemployment, or defy and take back our God-given freedoms. Of course, others would say the scriptures tell us to protect the most vulnerable, and to respect the authority over us; but what if the solution is worst the cure? Then what? What if we all fall into the economic abyss and we no longer have the means to help and protect the most vulnerable in society?

We are in a true dilemma today in the church! So, has been the case forever! In every moment of history, something has sprung up to make the church question its stance. Some will say, ***“Stay Home, Stay Out Of It, Save Lives!”*** Some will say, ***“Continue To Gather Together and Assemble Responsibly and Let Others Decide For Themselves To Stay Home If They Want!”*** Some will say, ***“Stand Up For Your Rights & Freedoms Today, Because Tomorrow They Will Be Taken Away Indefinitely; Then You Will Be Unable To Do Anything!”***

Throughout the Church’s Long History, when she was silent, atrocities and genocides raged, freedoms were trampled, and lives were slaughtered. But when she took a stand and here voice was heard, she was persecuted and her faithful were slaughtered. So, what do we do today?

The answer is in the Scriptures, it’s everywhere in God’s Word! Stand up and be counted worthy of the Name of Christian! I will highlight only one instance here for the sake of brevity: ***“And Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men!”*** When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, ***“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My Sake and the Gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the Glory of His Father with all the holy angels!”***

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
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Acts Of The Apostles
Day 28: Acts Chapter 7
Meditation

Question: ***“How will I react one day when I am falsely accused of sedition against my community, my state, and my country for being one of the last few to still believe in Jesus Christ?”***
I genuinely believe the days of such a witch hunt and trail are drawing very close! They surely were in the Days of Jesus; and Stephen was no exception to these brutal, unlawful, and false accusations and proceedings: ***“Then they secretly induced men to say, ‘We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.’ And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. They also set up false witnesses who said, ‘This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law’ ... Then the high priest said, ‘Are these things so?’”***

“Oh lord, that I would have the bravery of Stephen to give an account since the foundations of the world of Your glorious creation, plan of salvation, & sending of Your only Son to live & die in my place, in all our places! Oh Lord, that I would be found worthy to be martyred for my faith and witness to your Holy Name, if You ask my life of me! Oh Lord, that when my time comes, I would stand in strength, with my face like granite, resolute in my stance, and say like my dear brother, Stephen: **“Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the Right Hand of God! ... “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”**”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
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Acts Of The Apostles

Day 29: Acts Chapter 8

Meditation

“The beginnings of direct persecution not just one member of the Church, Stephen, but the whole of the church begins now in earnest under the direction of Saul of Tarsus (later Paul the Apostle), the man picked and paid by the Jewish Authorities to wipe out the followers of Jesus of Nazareth and the prophesying, teaching, and praising of the Name of Jesus Christ as God! The unintentional consequences of so much persecution however by the Jews of the Christians, was that they were all scattered abroad everywhere, and so the Word of God the Gospel reached many more places quicker than it would have otherwise.

As I mentioned previously, in my reflections and musings on Acts Chapter 6: “Deacons, like pastors have the ability to prophesy, preach, teach, baptize, heal, & sanctify by the giving of God’s Spirit by the laying on of hands, all under the Holy Spirit’s Anointing & Power.” While, Stephen is the greatest example of this apostolic succession of spiritual anointing and power; another great example is Philip, one of the original seven deacons, like Stephen, chosen by the Apostles for service to the Lord and His People! Here in Acts Chapter 8 we encounter the works of the Holy Spirit through Phillip who took up the mantle of righteousness from the martyred Stephen.

First Philip takes up where Jesus left off just before his death, by returning to the fledgling believers in Samaria associated with Jesus’ visit to the Woman at the Well. There he boldly teaches Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Who was crucified, died, buried, and arose again to life. Notice once again besides the preaching and teaching to those who did not believe, the Holy Spirit allowed accompanying Signs & Wonders in the form of Divine Supernatural Miracles to be witnessed by the people as proof that Jesus is God! Notice also that the Coming of the Holy Spirit in All of His Fullness brings with His Presence the Joy of the Lord!

Second Philip along with some of the Apostles (namely at least Simon Peter & John) began to baptize the believers and make them Sons & Daughters of God’s Family. They laid hands on them and sanctified them, and the believers received the fullness of the Holy Spirit into their lives as well. Notice also, that the preaching and teaching of the One Truth – Jesus Christ, the powers of darkness, demons, magicians, and sorcery is abandoned, and their power is broken.

Some however in every age think they can profit by gaining God’s Power for ill intentions and gain and need to be rebuked. Yet in the House of God there are to this very day Charlatans that are allowed to remain in the House of God. Mainly television and mega-church healers and teachers that profit financially for their modern day supposed miracles and watered-down compromising messages supposedly based in the Word of God. It makes me sad and also righteously angry that anyone would profit from the Gospel. Remember Peter warned Simon Magnus that he was in grave danger of eternal damnation and separation from God if he did not immediately repent of his evil intentions and ways.

Third Philip has actual encounters and conversations with the Holy Spirit. He is given explicit instructions from the Will of God to go and preach in a certain place and he obeys. Here again, I can learn from God's Word for me, that I must be open to God's Spirit's movement in my life, I must be open to hear His Voice, and to be obedient to His Will when He gives me a command, with no fear, no holding back, and no loss of trust and faith in Him. Philip clearly was open and obedient!

Philips' obedience leads to a whole new nation and region on the earth receiving God's Word & Spirit. He goes from deacon to missionary in a moment! By meeting and coming alongside a fellow believer in God as a Jew, He allows God's Spirit the opportunity to enlighten the Man from being a Slave (Eunuch) and a Convert to Judaism to believe in the Messiah (God's Chosen Savior of All) and thus to become a Christian, a Believer in God's Only Son, Jesus Christ the Lord of All! The Holy Spirit then, after opening the eyes of the Eunuch, prompts Him to obedience to become baptized and Philip promptly obeys and baptizes the Man. Then the scripture records that the Spirit of God literally produced a **Supernatural Sign and Wonder** by "**Teleporting**" Philip, body, mind, and soul to another place on the earth and away from the Eunuch. However, this indicates that the Holy Spirit had come in all of His Fullness to take Philip and to descend into the Eunuch as He goes His Way – Rejoicing (Praising God in Worship Filled with the Joy of the Lord)!

Just think what God could do and would do if I were open to His daily prompting and heard His Voice regularly day to day! Just think what Joy mine would be, as God's Spirit performed Signs and Wonders, and people's lives were changed, and they confessed with me faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ as new believers in His Glorious & Holy Name!

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
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Acts Of The Apostles

Day 30: Acts Chapter 9

Meditation

“The Acts Of Saul (Paul) & The Acts of Peter & The Acts of God's Spirit should be the title of this chapter of the Book of Acts! Let us start with a look into Paul & His Plans – And the Acts of Jesus & His Plans!

Saul schemed all the more as the Church made progress to crush it before the Message of the Good News could reach to many. Or should I say the devil schemed all the more, because at this point in Saul of Tarsus' life the devil had complete sway, even though Saul thought he was doing God's work! It seems, from this passage, that the most religious people on earth can at times be completely deceived into believing they are in fact doing God's work. This is also the case, with many people who have no belief in faith or in the existence of God. We see it all the time today in our society as well, as well-meaning humanists for the greater good want to stop all mention of the Name of God in our society. But Jesus warned us of both types of people did he not? He warned us they existed in His time here on earth and He warns us today as we get closer to the consummation of all things that this attack on God's Kingdom and God's People will only escalate all the more, ***“I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. For you will be expelled from the synagogues (churches), and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. This is because they have never known the Father or Me.”***

John 16:1-3

Saul, acting under the influence of the devil's deception was zealous like Satan himself, to extinguish the hope and freedom of the Gospel! Here is a **Precept of Truth**: ***“The More We As Christians Get Closer To The Holy Spirit, The More We Become Obedient, & Die To Self; The More Others Will Come To Christ, Be Changed, Be Healed, Be Transformed, & Be Set Free From Sin! And so, The More The Devil Will Lose His Hold On Our Lives First, & Their Lives Second! Therefore, ALL THE MORE The Devil Will Persecute & Try To Disrupt Our Church, Our Lives, & Our Way Of Operating In This World!”***

In fact, the response of the world, for the supposed greater good once again to this latest crisis is to limit our personal freedoms in general by: keeping us at home, away from our livelihoods, our daily lives, our God given rights; but ALL THE MORE the reason to limit FIRST & FOREMOST the right to peaceably assemble and gather together to not just protest or have our say, but even MORE IMPORTANT to freely assemble and gather to Praise & Worship Our God, to Encourage & Strengthen One Another, to Pray & Beseech God To Heal Our Land & Our World, & To Offer HOPE TO THE THOSE WITH NONE in Christ Jesus the Lord of ALL!

But Jesus Christ, God's Son had different plans than Saul or Satan for His Church, for His People! Jesus questioned Saul's Heart, His Intentions, & He temporarily struck Saul's Health, by blinding him from his normal vision of this world and the devil's scheming in his life, to see rather the supernaturally, to see in the divine world the TRUTH of Whom Jesus of Nazareth really WAS and IS still! To allow Saul to see that God was in Christ reconciling the Whole World to Himself! It is when we are humbled, when all is stripped away, that we need desperately to rely on God, when we need a Miracle to survive, that God shines in ALL of His Glory! And so, it was for Saul that day too!

That day and the next three days as he lived in darkness, in his blindness, Saul learned again who he was and Who God Was! When his sight was restored physically and the light of the world shone around Saul once more, so too his spiritual sight was restored, and the Light of the World shone in him for the first time! Saul was converted from darkness into the light in a single three-day period. Saul was changed forever by the coming of the Holy Spirit into his life!

Everyone of the fellow believers feared this was another trick of Satan to bring them out into the open to be slaughtered as Saul had been zealous in his deception prior to this moment. But the proof of Saul's radical transformation is captured in this phrase in Chapter 9 of Acts where the Jewish Authorities who had just previously given him all power to kill every last Christian now turn on him instead, ***"After a while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him. They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their plot. So, during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall."***

Acts 9:23-25

But Saul, grew stronger and stronger in his boldness and zealousness not for murder, but for the preaching, teaching, and yes debating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, ***"Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him."*** **Acts 9:28-29** But Once again, more attempts to stop the growing movement by those who are deceived by the evil one. And once again, what was the outcome of all of this activity by God's Holy Spirit among His People? ***"The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers."***

Acts 9:31

Now, let us look at the plans of Unity by Peter & God's Spirit working together! ***"Meanwhile, Peter traveled from place to place, and he came down to visit the believers in the town of Lydda. There he met a man named Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!"*** And he was healed instantly. Then the whole population of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, and they turned to the Lord.

There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, ***"Please come as soon as possible!"***

So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, ***“Get up, Tabitha!”*** And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive. The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord. And Peter stayed a long time in Joppa, living with Simon, a tanner of hides.” **Acts 9:32-43**

Q: ***“How does the Holy Spirit Act?”*** **A:** The lame walk, the dead are raised to life again! Everyone sees or hears about the Supernatural Signs & Wonders (Miracles) that are happening and attributed to God’s Only Son, Jesus Christ, and they believe, and the Church grows in number, and in inner strength and resolve!

“Lord, help my unbelief, in a world where churches seem to grow smaller and smaller and close their doors forever. Where a few large churches seem to grow in size but not in substance, or in spiritual Signs or Wonders, or in any True Obedience or Life Transformation, how can I believe that You are really God, and that you really do not change? That ***“Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, tomorrow, & forever!”*** **Hebrews 13:8**

Then in my stillness, in my inward quietness, God’s Spirit still speaks the answer back to me, ***“I AM That I AM!”*** ***“Even all become unfaithful, I AM still faithful, for I cannot deny Myself!”*** Then God’s Sweet Spirit says directly to Me, ***“If you do not see your life making any difference today, if you do not see your church making any difference today; Then the problem lies with you, just you!”*** ***“You are not fully surrendered, submitted to Me as Your Lord, Savior, & Provider!”*** ***“You are not willing to be humbled, not willing to repent fully, not willing to truly turn away from your sin, and selfish desires!”*** ***“You are not willing to die to self, and to live only for Me!”***

Then in my stillness, in my inward quietness, I know in my heart it is no longer enough to just want to change, I must change now, I must not just want to repent, I must repent now, I must not just want to obey, I must now obey! Then I know that I will see God’s Spirit move in me, in my church, and I know I will see more and more of His Glory, more and more of His Blessing, more and more of His Healing, more and more of His Boldness to Preach & Teach & Serve In His Name, more and more of the Lost & Broken in my community Coming to Him in Faith, and more and more of my community being Set Free & Filled with the same Eternal Hope I Have because of His Abiding Presence Within!

***“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”***

Acts Of The Apostles
Day 31: Acts Chapter 10
Meditation

“The Holy Spirit no longer promised to God’s Chosen People the Jews only! Today the Holy Spirit is offered to all!” After raising the little girl from the dead, Peter remains for a time on the coast in the City of Joppa. Joppa is an ancient port city on the Eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea where people from all over the ancient world, buy, sell, trade and ship goods. Its twin sister port City is Caesarea Philippi, where the local Roman military garrison & barracks is also located on the International Coastal Highway. It is from here that the miraculous signs and wonders of Jesus of Nazareth have found the ear of a certain Roman Centurion, Cornelius by name.

Q: ***“Was Cornelius the same Centurion entrusted with the crucifixion of Jesus or was he another Centurion?”***

A: According to tradition and other biblical sources there were three famous Centurions in the Gospel Accounts & Book of Acts two of which are unnamed, and one that is named:

1) The Centurion who desired that Jesus cure his son (servant) but was not worthy that Jesus should enter his unclean pagan house, 2) The Centurion who crucified Jesus and declared Him at His death to be a “Holy Man” or “Righteous Man” and/or “A Son of God”, & 3) Cornelius, Centurion of the Joppa Garrison.

A: These #3 Centurions form a **Triumvirate** - #3 Persons Working Together As One In Authority & Power! Each of them makes a further unifying statement about who Jesus Christ really is! They each declare his divinity and, in each case, their whole household and/or the soldiers under their leadership and authority declare their faith in Jesus as God.

The Holy Spirit gives prophetic dreams and visions to both Gentiles (Cornelius) and Jews (Peter) at the same time. There is a Unity of God's Will shown in the Visions to both. The 1st Vision leads to salvation and coming of the Holy Spirit in their lives as Gentiles, so that they might be brought into the Family of God. The 2nd Vision Corrects the inaccurate interpretation & understanding of God's Law and Traditions in the Old Testament Covenant concerning God's First Chosen People (Jews) & God's Fulfillment & Completion of the Central Message to “Offer Salvation to the Whole of God's Creation” (Gentiles & Jews) in light of the redemptive and saving work of Jesus Christ in the New Testament Covenant. Notice the Unity of the #2 Visions in doing the same Will of God for both groups of people, so that they might be One as the Trinity is One! That the Perfect Love of the Triumvirate of the Trinity may become united with their Creation, Us in Perfect Unity!

Remember: The Concept Of The **Triumvirate** was taught by Jesus right after serving His Followers by ‘Washing their Feet’ at the ‘Last Supper’ on the night he was betrayed in the Gospel of John. **Notice:** The Concepts of being ‘Ceremonially Clean/Washing’ & ‘Eating/Food’ & ‘Salvation/Eternal Life’ are all discussed or demonstrated by God.

Jesus taught throughout John Chapter 14 the Concept of the **Triumvirate**

“Triumvirate” - Three Persons Working Together As One In Authority & Power!

- 1) “I AM in the Father, & the Father in Me!” John 14:10
- 2) “I AM in the Father, & the Father in Me!” John 14:11
- 3) “I AM in My Father, & You in Me, & I in You!” John 14:20

Here Jesus Announces Two Of The Three Necessary Relationships Of This **Triumvirate**

- 1) God The Father In God's Son & God's Son In God The Father
- 2) God's Son In Us & Us In God's Son

Now Add In John 14:25-26 after Jesus dies, is raised to life, and ascends back to heaven, & the Day of Pentecost comes: “These things I have spoken to you while being **Present with you**. But the **Helper, The Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will Send in My Name, He will Teach you all things, & bring to your Remembrance all things that I Said to you!”**

Therefore, Jesus Plainly Tells Us Now About The Third Person Of The Trinity – Holy Spirit!

Here Jesus Now Introduces The Third Relationship Of The **Triumvirate**

- 1) God's Son In God's Spirit & God's Spirit In God's Son
- 2) God's Spirit In Us & Us In God's Spirit

Jesus Actually Has Described & Promised Us A Coming New Heavenly & An Earthly Interrelated **Triumvirate!** The Eternal **Triumvirate** Of The **Trinity** Of God Is Now United To Their Creation Us To Form A New **Triumvirate!**

- 1) God The Father In God's Son & God's Son In God The Father
- 2) God's Son In God's Spirit & God's Spirit In God's Son
- 3) God's Spirit In Us & Us In God's Spirit

**“We Are Now One With God The Father, God The Son, & God The Holy Spirit,
By The Indwelling Presence Of The Holy Spirit With Our Spirit!”**

This is the Message Of The Whole Book of Acts

***“The Acts of the Apostles (Jesus Followers) Acting In Unity With God’s Spirit
To Bring God’s Presence, Will, & Service To A Lost & Broken World
In Need Of Being Reunified In Their Relationship To God & To One Another!”***

“Oh Lord, that I would live and move and have my being in Perfect Unity with my own flesh & spirit, with myself and God, and with myself and others! Oh Lord, make it so, make it so!”

***“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”***

Acts Of The Apostles

Day 32: Acts Chapter 11

Meditation

“God shares freely the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and His Abiding Presence On All. Notice the Completeness of seeing the dream 3 x by Peter. This assured him that the laws for cleanness and kosher dietary laws found in the Old Testament Torah (First 5 books of the Bible) were no longer in effect for Gentiles or Jews. That the same God and Father of us all was offering salvation to all of His Children Gentiles and Jews alike in His Son, Jesus Christ! Notice the need for the preaching and teaching of the Gospel for salvation to come to an unbeliever.

This is first spoken of here in the Book of Acts, but also reinforced and furthered in the theology of salvation spoken by Paul to the Church in Rome, ***“But what does the Law say? ‘The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the Word of Faith which we preach) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘Whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.’ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are Sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of Peace, who bring glad tidings of good news!’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.***

Romans 10:8-17

Now we are introduced to another brother in the faith Barnabas and his relationship to Saul (Paul) of Tarsus. We see first the beginning of the movement by persecution to many far away cities with Antioch being emphasized in this passage. It is important to note that three principal cities became the central places from which the new found faith in Christ flowed in the first 1,000 of the church: 1) Rome, 2) Antioch, & 3) Alexandria. It was here at this early time in Antioch that the disciples (followers) of Christ became known as Christians. It is not a surprise that Antioch became one of the three largest centers of theology, study, and doctrine in the early church as Paul spent a whole year setting up its base of operations and set it on a firm foundation for the future. We start to see visions within the body of Christ began to foresee the future in this case a famine that was coming on the whole region and the world. The Holy Spirit was beginning to show the early church how to prepare in advance for crisis.

Oh Lord, help us as Your People, Your Church to become so close to You that Your Spirit will once again begin to show us what to do always, but especially as each crisis comes upon us and the whole world. As the days grow shorter and we draw closer to Your Soon Return help us to draw close to you and give us the benefit of Your Spirit’s Unity, Love, Direction, Guidance, & Vision!

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 33: Acts Chapter 12**

Meditation

“Persecution now comes not only from the Religious Authorities, but also from the Secular Governmental Authorities as well. The first of the Apostles is martyred for the faith, James Son of Zebedee, brother of John. When the local governor saw how much the killing of James mattered to the people, he decided to increase his stranglehold on power and to gain even more popularity arrested and persecuted Peter as well. Herod takes no chances and places not one squad of soldiers but 4 squads or 16 men in groups of 4 men each all in different concentric squares at different levels of the prison. Notice what the church’s response was, to rely on God to fix the problem, by showing complete faith in prayer!

God hears His People’s Prayer and responds by performing a miracle with one of His Angels! Peter thought this was yet another Holy Spirit inspired vision or dream but is nevertheless obedient and when he is outside the prison realizes he is indeed awake, alert, and free. They come to the nearby house of John (Mark) who would later accompanying others on missionary journeys and write the first Gospel account, The Gospel of Mark named after his surname (last name).

The believers all gathered for prayer at first believe Peter is visiting them by the Holy Spirit in a vision as well. Apparently “Visions in the Spirit” were commonplace in the closeness to one another and God in Unity in those days! Remember what the Prophet Joel wrote and the Apostle Peter used as His First Message ever, **“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your Sons and your Daughters shall prophesy, Your old Men shall dream dreams, Your young Men shall see visions. And also on My Menservants and on My Maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”**

Joel 2:28-29

Peter tells them to momentarily rejoice but keep silent about the miracle for the time being, and he leaves them so as not to implicate them for the time being while the investigation into his surprising escape is ongoing.

Then blasphemy is taken very seriously by God from Heaven; and Herod is struck down for allowing the people to call him and worship him as a god or God himself! Another Sign and Wonder from heaven. People struck in Awe & Fear, and again the church grows in size and strength! But it takes continued total faith and trust in God alone in the midst of continued escalating persecution and even martyrdom.

“Oh Lord, give me that same unwavering faith and trust in You alone. Oh Lord, make me ready to undergo persecution and even death for Your Holy Name’s Sake!”

**Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 34: Acts Chapter 13**

Meditation

“The Lord not only adds to the number of those being saved and added to the Family of God, He also adds to the number of prophets, pastors, & teachers to aid in the furthering of the Church’s growth in size, missionary work, evangelism, and in doctrine and sound teaching. Saul (Later Paul) & Barnabas are singled out by God’s Spirit for immediate Evangelism and Missionary Work. They encounter false teaching and even evil magic and sorcery of Satan. One of the two sorcerers turns to listen to the Word of God the Gospel being preached and taught. The other directly with black arts of magic and sorcery comes against them and the Holy Spirit through Saul blinds the man physically into darkness of sight.

This creates a living word picture to the people gathered on this island, that they might see the man's inward spiritual darkness and so see their own as well. This Sign and Wonder of Judgement From God In Heaven creates a fear and awe of God that leads even the authorities in this area to believe in the Name of Jesus Christ and therefore to God in Heaven. Once again boldness of faith leads to the church growing in number and in strength.

Saul & Barnabas now preach the Word of God boldly covering the whole of the Old Testament and finishing with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Declaring to all the Jews, that this Son of Man is also the Only Son of God! ***“Therefore, let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses.”*** Acts 13:38-39

Notice only some of the really ***devout*** (god fearing and true believers of God), believed the Gospel of Good News, most did not and started a new wave of discrimination and persecution! However, many of the Gentiles of the area asked to hear more the very next week. When they finished the next week preaching and teaching ...and many believed in faith! And they were all converted to the faith and filled with the Holy Spirit! They Church again grew in size in a new area along the Mediterranean Sea Basin. However, with increased growth and faith, comes increased persecution once more! Also notice Saul here became Paul for the first time!

“I need to study scripture more and more, so that I may give a bold, full, and Spirit filled account of the Wonders of God from the beginning of time to the moment I am asked by God's Spirit to speak to others! I must heed the admonition of God through my brother Peter, ***“And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.’ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the Will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*** 1st Peter 3:13-17

***“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”***

Acts Of The Apostles
Day 35: Acts Chapter 14
Meditation

“Longsuffering under persecution is needed here to win over the hearts and minds of the people. The Jews and Jewish Authorities really dug in with their opposition and their persecution, but Saul & Barnabas were not moved, instead they dug in and preached and taught with conviction, boldness, and spent even more time in battle to win the souls of about half the people. Notice with there tenacity came many more Signs & Wonders from God to convince the hardened of heart of the Truth of their preaching and teaching. They were also allowed to find out a plot to kill them and were able in the Spirit's leading to go into a new region and spread the Good News there as well!

In the next city region, God's Spirit instructs Saul to perform a miracle on a long time known crippled man by healing him in Jesus's Name! This Sign and Wonder from Heaven creates great fear and awe in the people who worship the Greek & Roman Pantheon of gods. And the people misunderstand their Message of the Gospel and believe instead that Paul and Barnabas are two of the gods incarnate in human flesh and even try to sacrifice animals to them directly.

Paul uses this occasion to reinstruct them in the actual Truth of the Gospel's Message! They instruct the pagan people that there is only One God Who is the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and all this is them. But still there was confusion in the hearts and minds of these pagan worshippers. However, some did come to believe correctly and fervently as seen later in the chapter.

They were then stoned here as well by people from some of the city states and local regions they had just preached to. Paul may have been actually dead here and raised to life according to the plain understanding of the text!

Notice, next a pattern of new church establishment is made into a careful plan of action in the Early Church. **1)** They revisit the place they just preached to very soon after leaving, **2)** They preach, teach, encourage, strengthen, and exhort for a time, **3)** They appoint new church elders (pastors, deacons, teachers) over the people, **4)** They pray and fast with the people for a time, & **5)** They admonish and remind all of the people in the new local church that, ***“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God!”*** **Acts 14:22**

The final steps in new church planting and missionary work is: **6)** They gave a full account of all that was undertaken and one on their mission, and **7)** They stay together in one place to worship and praise and thank God for all He has done!

***“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”***

Acts Of The Apostles
Day 36: Acts Chapter 15
Meditation

“The first church council or general assembly to discuss the problems that were starting to happen over matters of theology and doctrine was convened in Jerusalem. Both Peter & Paul agreed with all those gathered except the group of new believers from among the Pharisees or Sanhedrin Council. The Pharisees converts to Christianity, wanted to make all the Law of Moses (The “Torah” – Every law and tradition written in the First 5 Books of the Bible) and especially circumcision an absolute must. The Holy Spirit had Peter & Paul share all the things He As God had done among them and how He had come upon both Jews & Gentiles alike with only 2 requirements: 1) Hear the Good News of the Gospel, & 2) Place Their Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord!

They then after sharing the many testimonies and miracles and large conversion leading to church growth everywhere continued to ask the Holy Spirit what they should do. In Unity they came up with only three other laws all concerning the True Worship of God as opposed to the worship of all the other false gods & philosophies of the world: 1) bloody hanging meat that would be sacrificed to idols, 2) anything offered (polluted) as a gift or appeasement to idols, & 3) no lusting or sexual acts with the temple prostitutes who served the false gods. The Holy Spirit wants His People to Worship Him with an Undivided Spirit & In All Truth!

Next God the Holy Spirit calls and anoints 2 more men to go to prophecy and teach Judas & Silas. God’s Spirit just keeps on providing as His People stay in Unity with Him and with one another! Interesting! Even when a great problem or obstacle comes upon them, they call a conference, they stay unified, and they allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them, not their own opinion or decision. Then they sent out an official decision for all the churches to follow so that they all may remain Unified and they do. And again the early church planting and evangelism rules are followed. Continued encouragement and strengthening by the Apostles and Church Leaders and revisiting every place that a new church had just been established.

Finally, when a personal dispute came up between two brothers over another brother and could not be resolved in a mutually Unified manner, they split for a time and continued to spread the Gospel with an other partner, so that the Work of the Kingdom of God continued and was not splintered or fractured in the process. Interesting! Over time, these four men would all be together again, and all would stay faithful to their calling and all make great contributions to furthering God’s Kingdom on earth and even be brought into reconciliation with one another!

“Oh Lord help me to stay focused on your work but also to remain in Unity with You, with my family, with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in my local church family, and with all those who love You and are called according to Your Purpose!”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

Acts Of The Apostles

Day 37: Acts Chapter 16

Meditation

“Here we encounter the 2nd Generation of Church Leadership – Timothy. Curiously, he is the first true Hybrid Christian if you will. Let me explain. Christ came to break down all barriers, slave or free, man or woman, Jew or Greek (Gentile). In Timothy we meet a man who is raised Jewish and is 50% Jewish by blood from his mother, and 50% Greek by blood from his father, who is also a pagan believer in many gods. So, Timothy represents the ongoing mission to reach the whole world, and he is himself a representative of the whole world – A True Christian Hybrid!”

Another interesting fact is that when Paul meets young Timothy, he is carrying with him the dispatch of the conclusions of the 1st Church Council telling everyone going forward that most of the Jewish extra laws and traditions are no longer necessary, especially circumcision. Yet, Paul thinks it is prudent to circumcise Timothy anyway! **Q: “WHY?” A: “Because of the Jews pressing for this issue and knowing he is neither Jew, nor Greek by birth; Paul thought to remove the oppression of the local Jews on his Mother and him in order to keep Unity between all the factions.”** There is that *Unity* thing again!

Notice how Paul is led by the Holy Spirit so closely that when God’s Spirit tells him to halt, he halts, when he is told no, its no, when he is told go, he goes! Here the way to Asia to spread the gospel to the far East is temporarily blocked, and we are not told exactly why. But the way to Northern Greece and Southeast Europe is open to further missionary work and the spread of the Gospel Message. Further Notice, that it is both a telling and a vision that clarifies the Spirit’s will to His Obedient People!

Lydia of Philippi is the woman whom the Holy Spirit makes known the things of God as Paul preaches and teaches. She and her whole household are immediately baptized, and she provides the room and board for the Gospel to be preached further to the whole area. Notice she was a devout convert to Judaism first and regularly attended prayer and bible reading and study. She wanted to know more about God and to she was actively seeking His Presence in her life, even before Paul came to her with the Good News of the Gospel of Christ! Also notice the expansion of the early Church is either in a House Church or Open-Air Gatherings setting.

Next Paul confronts a prophesying evil spirit who has possessed and enslaved a young girl for an evil purpose of persuasion among the local people! False signs and wonders also accompany Satan and his forces as well. The True Sign and Wonder of exorcism performed through Paul by the Holy Spirit is proof of the power and supremacy of God and His overarching desire to set all people free, starting with this young daughter of His! However, whenever, freedom in God is found, Satan gets his minions and people under his sway to ramp up – you guessed it more persecution. Paul and Silas are caned with rods and poles (whipped) and thrown into prison.

Q: “What do Christians do when whipped and imprisoned?” A: They pray, praise, & worship God for being found worthy to suffer for His Name Sake & For His Will To Save the World!

That’s right, True Believers revel in persecution! It tells them that they are doing something right! The World has a different idea of success and doing something right, it is called rewards: money, possessions, prestige, and a promotion! Never Persecution!

Q: “What is the result of this incredible witness of joy and faith in spite of persecution and pain?” A1: They are set free to continue their divine mission by a Sign and Wonder of God Himself! A2: The People around them are astounded and fear and awe of God falls upon them. They are convicted in heart and mind and they know they need to make a solemn change in their life going forward, or to continue to lie to themselves and not change at all!

The Philippian Jailer not only is convicted, but he also acts immediately! He takes Paul and Silas to his own house, attends to their many wounds, gives them food and lodging and also, he and his whole household believe in faith and are baptized immediately into the faith of Christ Jesus Our Lord! His witness in turn leads the local authorities to release Paul & Silas as well. And once again everywhere the church grows in size, in unity, in strength, and in boldness because God’s Spirit is Present in all of His Fullness among His People!

“Oh Lord, give me strength and patience and love to endure persecution for Your Name Sake & for the Mission You have sent me to do: 1) To Seek and To Save the Lost and Broken, & 2) To Serve Everyone, Even Our Enemies With Your Eternal Love!”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 38: Acts Chapter 17**

Meditation

“Even though God’s Spirit directed Paul, Silas, and Timothy to go toward Macedonia in a Vision, they still met with fierce opposition from, especially the Jewish Authorities. They were able to convert many of the Greeks and some of the Jews in Thessalonica. Interestingly, we hear here that it was Paul’s custom upon entering a new area or town region to meet first with the Jews in their synagogues and to reason with them for a time. In this first instance for three weeks he preached, taught, and debated with the members of the synagogue. Notice God has a real affection first for His Original Chosen People – Jews, and Paul does too. However, Paul is also a Chosen Servant to the Gentiles and he in turn wins many more of them, than the Jews.

Once again with further success in spreading the Good News of the Gospel Message, even fiercer opposition is raised by Satan primarily through the Jewish Authorities. However, they continue to stir up their Gentile, especially Roman Neighbors but starting to use the One God, One King declaration of Christianity in the Anointed – Chosen One – Messiah: Jesus Christ. They say this is a direct violation of god worship contrary to the living god on earth, the current ruling Caesar of Rome! Thus, when Satan cannot stop the Good News from spreading by direct persecution of the Jewish Authorities, he turns instead to the ruling government of the day – Rome.

As Paul, Silas, & Timothy under threat of persecution and maybe death leave Thessalonica (South Eastern Macedonia & North Eastern Greece) for Berea (Southern Macedonia & Northern Greece) they are met with a more teachable spirit. The Holy Spirit through careful examination & study of the Berean People is able to convict and win more souls here than in Thessalonica. However, the devil chases Paul and Silas there too and causes them by the people’s help and the Holy Spirit’s guidance to split up in the night in order to get away from the murderous mob’s threats and searches.

Paul now travels due south to the Capital City State of Greece – Athens and is later reunited with Silas & Timothy. In the meantime, God’s Spirit provokes and vexes Paul’s spirit to feel the grief and weight of the pagan worship of so many gods in Athens. And to sense the great deceiving spirit Satan has over the people there. A kind of godly sorrow and grief seems to feel the mind and soul of Paul. Once again, as was his custom, Paul tries to reason with the Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism in the Athens’ synagogue. He also added a debate time however, in the local marketplace as well to swell the curiosity of all the local people.

This new evangelistic strategy led Paul into the path of the top philosophers and thinkers in the whole known world, the fabled Epicureans & Stoics! One taught that life should be an indulgence of the flesh and to make sure you enjoyed all the good things life had to offer, because life is short. The other taught life should be a series of principled decisions and strict self discipline above all else, self control in everything. However, both groups were quite liberal in their desire to hear and to contemplate new ideas and philosophies all the time. A sort of long-lasting school of debate – day after day drew their intellectual and spiritual curiosity. It is into this milieu of ideas and general endless curiosity that Paul was asked one day to speak in the highest center of intellectual and historical wisdom of his day, he was asked to speak to the general populace and esteemed assembly at the Areopagus on top of the fabled Mars Hill in Athens.

Paul sought the Holy Spirit's direction on how to reach these humanistic and pagan people. He was told to use their curiosity in all things spiritual as his inroad. So Paul found a starting point where everyone agreed, the "Unknown" or in their eyes, the "Unknowable" as his starting point! Paul then recounts all of human collective history since the creation of time and the world. Then leads up to the present day in which he is speaking to them, ***"People of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD'. Therefore, the One Whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: For God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a Day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man Whom He has Ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead!"*** **Acts 17:22b-31**

Just like today, many people mocked and scoffed at the idea that a man could be resurrected from the dead. Most departed from the gathering, but they added, "We will hear of this man again on these matters". Showing a least in some cases a continued curiosity. However, some, a few of these men & women who listened, mainly, ***"Joined with Paul and believed, among them was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others along with them."*** **Acts 17:34**

"Oh Lord, cause me to stop and pray, study, and listen to the guiding of Your Holy Spirit Who Lives Within Me! Allow me to listen, to hear, to have a teachable spirit within me, and to be obedient to Your Movement and Leading in my life. That I may be your willing instrument to be creative and imaginative enough to lead others to come to have faith in You, My Lord & My God!"

**Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!"**

Acts Of The Apostles

Day 39: Acts Chapter 18

Meditation

"Paul continues his customary going to the synagogue and reasoning with local Jews, this time in Corinth. He meets there an important immigrant refugee couple that is exiled from Rome, Italy to Greece because of their Jewish Faith. This couple Aquila and Priscilla, will lead the home church that will become

the Corinthian Church. It is also the first, mention of a dual role for co-pastors in a church setting as husband and wife in church history!

Paul is also reunited with Silas and Timothy who took another route because of being persecuted and hunted from Macedonia. Notice God's Spirit started all of this new evangelism by specifically directing Paul to go to Macedonia. Notice further, that following the Holy Spirit is not a guarantee of an easy life, in fact, it often, if not always, means persecution for your faith and obedience will follow. In this instance Paul's teaching and reasoning in the local Jewish synagogue really pays off as the head Rabbi, Crispus, is converted to Christianity and all with him, are also baptized and become believers. This in turn leads Gentile Corinthians to also become believers in Christ!

Paul is then encouraged to stay there by an audible theophany (God's Voice) directing him to continue in boldness to teach the Good News. Paul is obedient and remains 18 months in Corinth. This continued boldness leads to more persecution, but God just as God had promised Paul, no harm came to him even from the local Roman Ruler. However, the Jews whipped and expelled Crispus' successor in the Synagogue Sosthenes by name, who later is mentioned by name in 1st Corinthians 1:1 in the Greeting of the Epistle.

Now Aquila and Priscilla accompanying Paul to Ephesus. Paul cuts his hair off in order to fulfill a vow (informal Nazarite Vow for a time that he had fulfilled, and his hair was quite long) he made to God. Then by himself again keeps his custom and enters the synagogue there to again begin to reason with the Jews. Even though the people there in Ephesus asked to stay on, he refused as he had need to reach Jerusalem for an upcoming feast day. But he did promise if God willed to shortly return them in Ephesus. Paul then set sail for Israel (then Palestine) retracing his steps to Caesarea, Antioch, Galatia, Phrygia, on his way back to Jerusalem. This demonstrates his need in the early church to strengthen, edify, and correct doctrine etc. in all the newly established churches.

Apollos, and Alexandrian Egyptian Born Jew who had converted to Christianity arrives in place of the departed Paul. We now see the need for Aquila and Priscilla remaining behind in Ephesus as they are needed as grounded believers to help correct the misunderstandings of Apollos, that allow him to become a bold and effective teacher and preacher in the faith. See how the Holy Spirit when listened to and obeyed continues to direct His People to make sound decisions and plans for His Church! Unity and Obedience are again paramount to God's Kingdom being established everywhere, even when human intuition and decision making might think otherwise, like following Paul anyway!

"Oh Lord, help me to hear Your Spirit's Voice and to Obey you and not my own limited understanding and desires. Not unto me Oh Lord, Not unto Me, But to Your Holy Name, May I give Glory, Forever and Ever! Amen!"

***"Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!"***

**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 40: Acts Chapter 19**

Meditation

"Even though Apollos taught what he and Aquila and Priscilla knew to be true, it is evident, that the Baptism of a New Believer in Jesus Christ by Faith for the Forgiveness of Sins (Justification Before God), and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Sanctification From God) of a Believer is a Two Step Latter Process. It requires, further teaching, knowledge, and acceptance by faith, and is also only present by the Laying on of Hands by an ordained church elder. We saw this with Peter, John, and now Paul.

Paul then immediately goes back and once again begins his customary reasoning in the local synagogue with the Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism. Now many Signs and Wonders were done by God's Spirit through Paul, so much so that the scripture even records miracles happening without Paul even being present himself, ***"Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,***

so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. **Acts 19:12**

Further, it is apparent that one must be a true believer and have true understanding of what one believes in order to have a Miracle occur by God's Permission, as many Jewish believers tried to exorcise demons according to the Old Testament Faith, without the Messiah's Name believed by them in their hearts and the result was the demon did not obey them. However, a great fear of the demonic realm fell upon the people and even the sorcerers and magicians burned their evil tomes and converted to faith in the One True Living God in His Son's Name!

Guess what followed these great Signs and Wonders and Many Conversions to the Faith ... You guessed it, more persecution, this time by the devil's stirring up of the pagan god idol makers. But the believers were protected, and the assembly of prosecutors sent home in dismay.

"Oh Lord, help me to be bold even when I am persecuted for no reason, other than for more boldness to proclaim you in public to all As King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Protect me in my hour of persecution, but if it is Your Will, may I give whatever you ask of me, even my livelihood or my life for Kingdom Come and Your Holy Name's Sake!"

***"Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!"***

Acts Of The Apostles
Day 41: Acts Chapter 20
Meditation

"Notice immediately persecution and constant need for movement by Paul is occurring everywhere as his travel plans need to change at times, even against his will. Also Notice, that the list of believers and companions keeps growing as well, in Chapter 18 & 19 several names were added, and here in Chapter 20 more are added, ***"And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia, also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.*** **Acts 20:4**

A new world area, Troas, to evangelize, and a new Sign and Wonder to accompany the Message of Liberation in the Good News, a man raised from the dead in the Name of Jesus Christ! Notice also this Miracle accompanies Communion, a remembrance of the Life & Death of Our Lord for Us, and by His Stripes, we are all healed, the scripture records. This is both a physical, mental, and spiritual complete healing in the sacrifice of Jesus Our Lord!

Now we see Paul, going into new regions and heading again for Jerusalem to celebrate the foundation of the Church at the Feast of Pentecost! But on his way, Paul again doubles back on the newly established churches along the way and continues to establish, edify, and strengthen the new believers along his route, stopping in Ephesus.

Here Paul speaks of his soon coming fate in the hands of the unbelievers, ***"And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:22-24.***

Notice he only has one desire to finish his life for God's Will and God's Kingdom! *"Oh Lord, May I Be Like Paul, Single Minded For You In This Life, So That I May Behold You In The Next Life!"*

***"Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!"***

Acts Of The Apostles
Day 42: Acts Chapter 21
Meditation

“Paul continues his custom of traveling to the newly established churches along his route to Jerusalem and continuing to teach, preach, edify and encourage and correct as he goes that all the believes may know and live in the Truth, and that none should be lost.

Paul on his way home to Jerusalem, he passes through the Port City of Caesarea Philippi, where curiously one of the original seven deacons of the Church, Phillip (Now Called the Evangelist) now lives with his family. And for the doubters of the Church in our Modern Age, the Scripture declares that the same Holy Spirit has given the gift of Teacher, Pastor – that of Prophecy to all of Phillips four daughters alike. They would be declared elders and church leaders in our churches today, even those who say women cannot and should not be allowed to lead in the church as either pastors or deacons, or evangelists! Thanks Be To God You Gives Freely Gifts to ALL MEN (Men & Women) alike for the furthering of His Will and His Kingdom here on Earth!

Paul encounters a fellow believer, named Agabus, who prophecies to Paul his coming fate in Jerusalem as the Holy Spirit has shown to him what must come to pass shortly! Paul shows that it is not mere persecution coming his way, but that this round of persecution will eventually lead to his death, as God’s Spirit had already shown him as well. Notice Paul does not make a human decision to change course or to run away, but resolutely continues on to meet the Spirit’s Will for his life, not his own!

Paul once arriving in Jerusalem, once again follows his early custom of giving a full report to the Elders of the Church, James, Jesus’ brother, and all the Elders and Apostles gathered there for a church council meeting to great him. Paul also confirms that wherever he taught and preached he stayed loyal to their 3 minimum law rules for making new believers in the church.

False accusations are levied against Paul, just like in Jesus’ case, and he is arrested for doing nothing wrong, just like Jesus. But Paul, asks for the Roman Magistrate that he be allowed to speak in his own defense as he was a rightful Roman Citizen, to whom such privileges belonged, especially if he was falsely accused. And he was given permission to make his own defense and speech!

“Oh Lord, even when I have come to the end of my life, may I have the courage and strength to ask of You, one last chance to speak of You and Your Forgiveness and Love for All of Your Creation!”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

Acts Of The Apostles

Day 43: Acts Chapter 22

Meditation

“Paul uses the Hebrew language of his own people to Witness to them. **Q: “Why?” A: Because he is about to witness to them a miracle of being brought into the “Shakina Glory” of God spoke of in the Old Testament, which is a symbol of His Actual Presence By His Spirit!** By telling them that Jesus of Nazareth was God’s Chosen Anointed One (Christ = Messiah) and that the **“Shakina Glory”** shone around Him was so intense Paul could not see His Face, Paul is in effect saying, Jesus Is God’s Son!”

Unfortunately, it is taken as blasphemy, just as when Jesus claimed this very same thing in the flesh. The Jews unfortunately react the same way and demand the death of Paul as they did of Jesus. Paul reminds them that he was once just as they were but encountering God the way he did made him correct his error, his thinking, his ways in order to conform to this new understanding, termed **“The Way”!**

When this fails also, he pleads to the local Roman Official, to consider the fact that he too is a Roman Citizen and cannot be punished without a formal hearing, no longer according to the court of the Hebrews, but of the court of Rome. God grants him clemency and another opportunity to plead with and reason with God’s & Paul’s Chosen People. What Grace, What Long Suffering, What Mercy God has for the Jewish People!

“Oh Lord, may I be patient and forgiving as You are with all people’s, may I also have a special desire to pray for and long for, as You long for, the conversion of the Jewish People!”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 44: Acts Chapter 23**

Meditation

“Paul tries by professing to be a Pharisee to cause a debate to begin over his testimony of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! He is successful in getting the debate started. However, even he cannot understand till later that evening why he has chosen this course of action. It is so the debate will now shift from the Jews alone, and the limited witness in Jerusalem & Israel alone, to the Whole World through the dominion and Empire of Rome!

While the Pharisees clearly see the argument of Resurrection as Theologically correct and possible, they incorrectly identify Jesus as either a Mere Angel or the Angel of the Lord, but once again, like their ancestors, fail to recognize that the Angel of the Lord is the Lord Himself in the Old Testament. That is the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament is the Pre-Incarnate Christ, the Son of God!

God’s Will is accomplished through Paul’s Nephew and the Roman Official in charge of the Jerusalem Region, Claudius Lysias. Paul is taken away in the night to protect his life, so that he may be allowed to witness to God’s Only Son, Jesus Christ, in Rome and through the Capitol of Rome to the Whole of the Known World!

“Oh, Lord, when I am persecuted, or even one day imprisoned for you, may I have the faith, strength, resolve, and clarity of mind like my brother Paul, to seek even then, Your Will on earth as it is in heaven for my life in Your Service & Your Kingdom Come!”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 45: Acts Chapter 24**

Meditation

“Paul is now given a higher court to hear his witness concerning the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Day of Judgement which is coming at the end of age of earth, of both the Just & Unjust alike! Felix the Governor of all of Palestine (Modern Day Lebanon, Syria, & Israel) now listens intently to the theology and witness of Paul and his teachings concerning the Christians (**“The People of the Way”**), which is what Jesus taught to both Jew & Gentile alike: **“That all must come to God through Him alone, for He is **“The Way, The Truth, & The Life!”****”

Paul is saved for death but remains in prison there in Caesarea Philippi for 2 full years. He remains in prison under the Governorship of the newly appointed Governor of the Region, Porcius Festus. Paul also has a captive audience as he continues to teach and preach and reason with his fellow brothers and sisters in the ministry of the church and with the local Roman and Gentile peoples, especially of the Roman Soldiers and the Courtiers.

“Oh. Lord give me more patience like Paul, who stayed there for 2 years wanting his own personal freedom and wanting to be a missionary and preach and teach to many in different places. But Paul learned to be happy with is circumstances, and with God’s Will for his life and continued where he was to daily testify to You On Lord! Make me a humble, patient, and willing servant of You to accept whatever You have for me to do for Your Name’s Sake & for Your Glory!”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

**Acts Of The Apostles
Day 46: Acts Chapter 25**

Meditation

“Amazing, even after two whole years go by, the Jewish Religious Authorities still want to lie in wait and murder Paul! But the new governor, Porcius Festus, sees through their schemes, probably by his conversations with the previous governor, Felix. Look how Satan needed to get rid of Paul! **Q: “Why?”**
A: Because Paul, unlike all the rest of the Apostles, was specifically chosen by God to spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the Peoples of the World through the Roman Empire, starting in Rome itself!

Once again, the Jews try to get Festus to do them a favor and have Paul moved to Jerusalem for trial where they may have the opportunity to either start an insurrection and murder Paul in the fray, or like Jesus before him, convince the Roman Officials that Paul is in sighting the people to Worship God on earth in Jesus Christ rather than the Roman gods or god on earth as the reigning Caesar, proclaimed himself to be!

Once again, according to God’s Will for Paul, Paul asks for a higher Roman Tribunal Court, above Festus’ Seat of Judgement as is the prerogative of all Roman Citizens. **So, Paul said, “I stand at Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.”** **Acts 25:10-11**

And Felix the Governor as is his duty responds, **Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, “You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!”** And so, Paul does God’s Will and is sent to Rome to testify there concerning the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! But Paul was also granted one more opportunity before his departure to Rome to speak to the Vassal King Agrippa of His Own People and through him, to ALL of His People one last time! How great is God’s Love for His 1st Chosen People!

“Oh Lord, may I be as resolute in my convictions and my faith in You as my brother Paul, and may I ask to be put in the Lion’s Den, as Daniel was, to go the Gate of Hell, if You ask me, to certain death, if need be, simply because it is You Who have asked!”

**“Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!”**

Acts Of The Apostles
Day 47: Acts Chapter 26
Meditation

“Paul’s final witness to the Vassal King Agrippa, ruling over the Jewish People by Rome’s Authority, shows both the long history and truth of the Whole of Old Testament Promise – “That God would in time send forth His Chosen & Anointed One, the Christ / Messiah of His Chosen People to proclaim God’s Forgiveness, Grace, Love, & Mercy to all People’s of the Earth, both Jew & Gentile alike. That His Only Son, Jesus Christ would suffer, die, and give His Perfect Life of Obedience to His Heavenly Father on all of our behalf’s and then rise again from the dead to prove He was indeed God and Sent by God! Once again, the Witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single most important witness we all must have in our day as well! The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the crux of the whole of the truth of the Gospel’s Message and its Power to Save everyone!

Jesus told Paul in an Epiphany Vision (God speaking & Present in Person) this message, **“I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”** **Acts 26:17-18**

Paul pleads God's heart and his own heart (transformed by God's Grace & Love) for all the peoples of the world. ***"I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."*** **Acts 26:29**

"Oh Lord, give me boldness and a heart of compassion and grief to feel what You feel, when you consider even one of Your children who are without Your Eternal Hope, who are Lost & Broken in this World without You in their life!"

***"Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!"***

Acts Of The Apostles

Day 48: Acts Chapter 27

Meditation

"Once again as at the beginning and throughout at various times, the Presence & Acts of God's Spirit is accompanied by Divine Visions to those who are obedient and surrendered to the Will of God for their lives and existence. Here again, while Paul was fasting and praying in preparation for the Feast of Atonement (Yom Kippur) in a series of storms aboard the Roman ship bound to take Paul to Rome, Paul is shown in a divine vision the future that includes a coming shipwreck. Paul also sees that God will spare all 276 lives aboard because of Paul's obedience and witness to the vision from God to be used as a means of coming prophecy and divine intervention. This is a convincing sign and wonder that even the pagan, unbelieving mind can also be astounded by and through which the fear and awe of God may come into their lives as well."

"Oh Lord, keep me obedient to You alone and close to Your Heart that You may show me things that must come soon, so that I can relay them to the unbelievers and to those immature believers of the faith alike, in order to encourage fear and awe of You and Your Presence in the World. May Your Divine Visions as a True Sign & Wonder bring many souls to believe in You and that they may put their Eternal Trust in You Alone!"

***"Reflections Of A Hermit:
On A Journey Toward Wind & Fire!"***

Acts Of The Apostles

Day 49: Acts Chapter 28

Meditation

"God allows another miraculous Sign & Wonder to occur in the life of Paul in his shipwreck on the Island of Malta. God allows a poisonous snake to bite Paul, but no effect of the poison to happen to him as a result. This again, strikes a certain fear and awe into the local pagan unbelieving population of islanders. However, they see Paul as a manifestation of a lesser god among many gods and not as a servant of the One True God, Whom they have never heard of.

God next allows a very public healing of a dying man at the hand of Paul, followed by a whole series of healings on all those who were sick over a period of days. These continued Signs and Wonders (Miracles) give credence to what Paul teaches and preaches, the One True God of Heaven and Earth!

As they approach the mainland of Italy, and head along the road to Rome, Paul is met by a host of brothers and sisters of ***"The Way"***, of the Faith! These are indeed converts to Christianity because of the deliverance of the Letter to the Romans a few years back, which Paul wrote and sent by the hand and teaching of Phoebe, a sister in the Ministry of Christ Jesus!

Then after arriving in Rome, Paul once again, began in earnest to reach God's & his Chosen People, the Jews! He reasoned with them with the whole of the Old Testament and with all the new knowledge of the Life of Jesus Christ pointing out to them that He was indeed misunderstood and misinterpreted by the Jewish Religious Authorities. Paul preached Jesus Christ as God's Chosen & Anointed One Messiah to his people once more. And Paul also warned them of the prior prophecy of the Prophet Isaiah

...

***“The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, ‘go to this people and say: “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them!”* Acts 28:25-27**

After this statement by Paul, a great debate and disturbance erupted among the Jewish Religious Authorities in Rome as they departed the debate and council with Paul. And as usual some were convinced and believed in Christ, and others were not convinced and did not believe in God’s Only Son!

Paul was afforded a house arrest with many freedoms and he continued to preach, teach, edify, and encourage the Christians in Rome over the next two years. He was actually given great freedom for one under house arrest. And this cannot be the imprisonment leading to death.

Paul was actually imprisoned in Rome twice. His second imprisonment was under the reign of Nero Claudius Caesar! This second imprisonment led to his death probably on June 29, 67 AD. Notice God’s Will was accomplished again in the life of Paul, remember back when this whole thing started, God told him this would not lead to his death, but to the opening of the Gospel’s Message to the Whole World beginning in Rome first!

“Oh Lord, even in the last two years of my life, even from prison, may I be so close to Your Holy Spirit that I am ready to serve you with even more vigor in the end, than at the first!”

Let My Life’s Motto Be The Same As The Holy Men & Women Who Have Gone Before Me!

***“Not unto me Oh Lord, Not unto me,
But to Thy Holy Name, May I give Glory,
Both now and forevermore!”***