



*The*  
**ACTS**

OF THE APOSTLES



## *Today's Scripture Reading*

Acts 21:1-16



<sup>1</sup> And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. <sup>2</sup> And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. <sup>3</sup> When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. <sup>4</sup> And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.



<sup>5</sup> When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed <sup>6</sup> and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home. <sup>7</sup> When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. <sup>8</sup> On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. <sup>9</sup> He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.



<sup>10</sup> While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup> And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’” <sup>12</sup> When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”



<sup>14</sup> And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.” <sup>15</sup> After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup> And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

A stylized orange flame logo with three distinct tongues of fire, positioned to the left of the word 'ACTS'.

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# *camaraderie* OF COMMUNITY





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GOD'S *mercy* ALLOWS  
*fellowship* ANEW



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# COMMUNITY *reaffirmation*



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# AGABUS' verbal and visual prophesy



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“What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” <sup>14</sup> And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.” <sup>15</sup>

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PAUL not persuaded

LET THE will of God BE DONE



COMMUNITY PROVIDES  
*wealth of soul*



A diverse body **SPEAKING WITH** one voice

**ACTS 9:16:** For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.

**2 CORINTHIANS 11:23:** Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.



## JOHN MACARTHUR CALLS THIS *courage of conviction*

- WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS?
- GIVE EXAMPLES IN PAUL'S LIFE
- WHY IS THIS SO HARD?

HEBREWS 11:1: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.



DO YOU HAVE convictions?



**ACTS 21:14:** And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”

## WHAT HAPPENS HERE?

### CONVICTIONS ARE FORMED BY:

- Having Scripture as foundation
- Via the power and provocation of the Holy Spirit
- Discipleship and community living



1 JOHN 4:1: Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from god, for many false prophets have gone out into the world

ROMANS 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



GROWING IN CHRIST IS AN  
*exercise* OF BOTH *time and will.*





*discernment* IS A MUSCLE  
DEVELOPED THROUGH *intentional,*  
*consistent and specific use.*



# 5 APPLICATIONS



1. Write out a list of convictions asking your close circle if they see them in you



2. Determine which ones are lacking making resolution to exercise them into your routine



3. Do you know your giftings? These are God given and directed, and will assist you in determining where and how you fit in the body of Christ in service



4. Don't allow diversions but keep your hand to the plow as you settle on God's will for you



5. Know you are affecting others... Is this affecting Kingdom based?

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