

Yielding to the Holy Spirit

3 The Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts

MMBC

April 11, 2018

Review: Acts I (The Holy Spirit at Work!)

Thus far we have seen how the Holy Spirit led the apostles to do great things in ministry. Luke helps us to see the Holy Spirit was an **active participant** in their missionary journeys. We too, must rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. We must listen for His instructions and heed to His warnings!

A Change of Plans

Read Acts 16:6-10

Take a close look at verse 6. Where did the Holy Spirit forbid them from going?

How important is it to be led by the Spirit? Clearly, Paul wanted to spread the gospel as he had been instructed; however, the Holy Spirit had a different strategy.

Read also Acts 16:7. Where else were they not allowed to minister _____?

In Paul's vision, a man from Macedonia standing and bidding Paul to come over to Macedonia, we see the Holy Spirit at work. In verse 10, Paul and his companions made their way to Macedonia.

What does this teach us? We have to understand as believers the Holy Spirit speaks to us in numerous ways. In this case, the Holy Spirit revealed Himself through a vision.

Consider how God (the Holy Spirit) spoke to others through visions:

- God spoke to Ananias (Acts 9:10-12)
- God spoke to Cornelius (Acts 10:3)
- God spoke to Peter (Acts 10:17-19 and Acts 11:5)

Ultimately, these visions led to the Gospel reaching the Gentiles, God's intended audience.

Discuss how Proverbs 16:9 relates to this. Write it here.

We should never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit and the manner in which He speaks.

Warnings

Consider Paul's statement in Acts 20:22. Paul felt completed to go to Jerusalem. Even though he dealt with uncertainties. In Acts 21:4, the disciples in that area warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem.

Do you think the Holy Spirit was sending mixed messages? What is the big picture?

Now, read 21:11-13.

It seems as though the warning is for Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Yet, Paul is determined to go and suffer if need be so. The disciples conceded and declared as recorded verse 14b, 'Thy will of the Lord be done!'

Whom does this remind you of?

We should be very careful who we allow to help us make decisions in our lives. We need to be sure we hear from God!

God's Divine Strategy

Read Acts 23:11. You should notice the specific instructions for Paul are printed in red.

What did the Holy Spirit mean by "so MUST thou bear witness also at Rome?"

Who can stop us when we are doing what God has purposed for us to do?

Read 23:12-14 regarding the conspiracy. Could they stop Paul? Why?

Acts 27 gives us the account of their joyous voyage.

What lessons do we see that are similar to our lives?

Yes, they faced unknown circumstances, danger, fear and faith!

Did they make it? Read 27:44. The Bible declared they all escaped the storms confronting them and safely made it to dry land.

As you continue reading, you will see where Paul was bitten by a viper on the Island called Me'lia.

Describe the barbarian's reaction (28:4).

What did the Holy Spirit allow Paul to do in response to having been bitten by a deadly viper?

Verse 6 tells us what should have happened or what they thought was going to happen, but God didn't let it happen!

Is that your story? Can you agree to the same?

Read the concluding verses to the book of Acts in Acts 28:31. Wow! Look at God!

No man was able to stand against Paul!

4 is our next lesson: Receiving the Holy Spirit