



Decade of Availability

Nothing to Fear

“For to me to live is Christ,
and to die is gain.”

The Apostle Paul Phil. 1:21

**You can't really live until you are free
from the fear of dying!**

It's Our Story: The Book of Acts is our story! “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...” It was also Paul's story. He was not afraid of Rome, or Caesar, or death. He had a prophetic mission. We have a Prophetic mission—to speak salvation and the power of God into the lives we meet.

A. A Lifetime of Persecution vv. 1-6

1. Constant stress and persecution: From his conversion on the road to Damascus to his death by Caesar—Paul lived in the shadow of opposition. From a group of Jews bent on killing him to opposition from believers in the early Church—how did he manage?

“Be anxious (careful) for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Paul to the Philippians Phil. 4:6-7

—> **What about your peace?** Do you have the ‘peace’ of God regarding your life and future?

B. A Lifetime of Purpose vv. 7-12

1. Called by God—Led of the Holy Spirit: Paul knew his call—he was called to suffer for Jesus and go to the Gentiles. Acts 9:15 **Paul was ‘Holy Spirit’ driven...**

“After these things ended, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” Acts 19:21

“And the night following, the Lord stood by Him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou has testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” Acts 23:11

2. Making a stand: vv. 10-12 When we pray and wait for God to act, part of the answer often involves us making decisions in the moment in advance of the full answer or fulfillment. Sometimes God will fight for us and we keep still (*Exodus 14:14*), and other times we are to be strong and courageous and move out under His direction (*Joshua 1:6*).

Spirit-led: As with all that Paul does in Acts—his appeal to Caesar was a Spirit-led decision. He was not making a ‘stand’ for or against Caesar—he was making a **fearless ‘stand’** for God.

“All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them.”

Oswald Chambers

—> **What is your purpose?** What has the Holy Spirit purposed for you?

Acts 25: 1-12 (KJV)

1 Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

2 Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him,

3 And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.

4 But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly thither.

5 Let them therefore, said he, which among you are able, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there be any wickedness in him.

6 And when he had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought.

7 And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove.

8 While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.

9 But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?

10 Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

11 For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.