



The Mission of Paul



Mission finds its origin and purpose in God alone. In Scripture, we see a God who intentionally reaches out to His children and desires to be with them. From the beginning, he establishes a relationship with Adam and Eve.

Even after the entrance of sin, he continues his mission. But that mission now is to re-establish its relationship with humanity. Ultimately, God's mission will be fulfilled (Rev. 21-22), and for this reason we must be motivated in the work of proclaiming the everlasting gospel to the world.—Rev. 14:6, 7.

Jesus left with these words: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Mat. 28:19-20)

Mission is a call to share personal faith and disciple interested recipients, for the purpose of freeing them from Satan's clutches, so that they can give themselves fully and continuously to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

We are going to learn from the greatest and best missionary: Paul. We will look at how he brought the gospel to different groups of people in different situations, how he faced challenges, and how God acted in his mission.



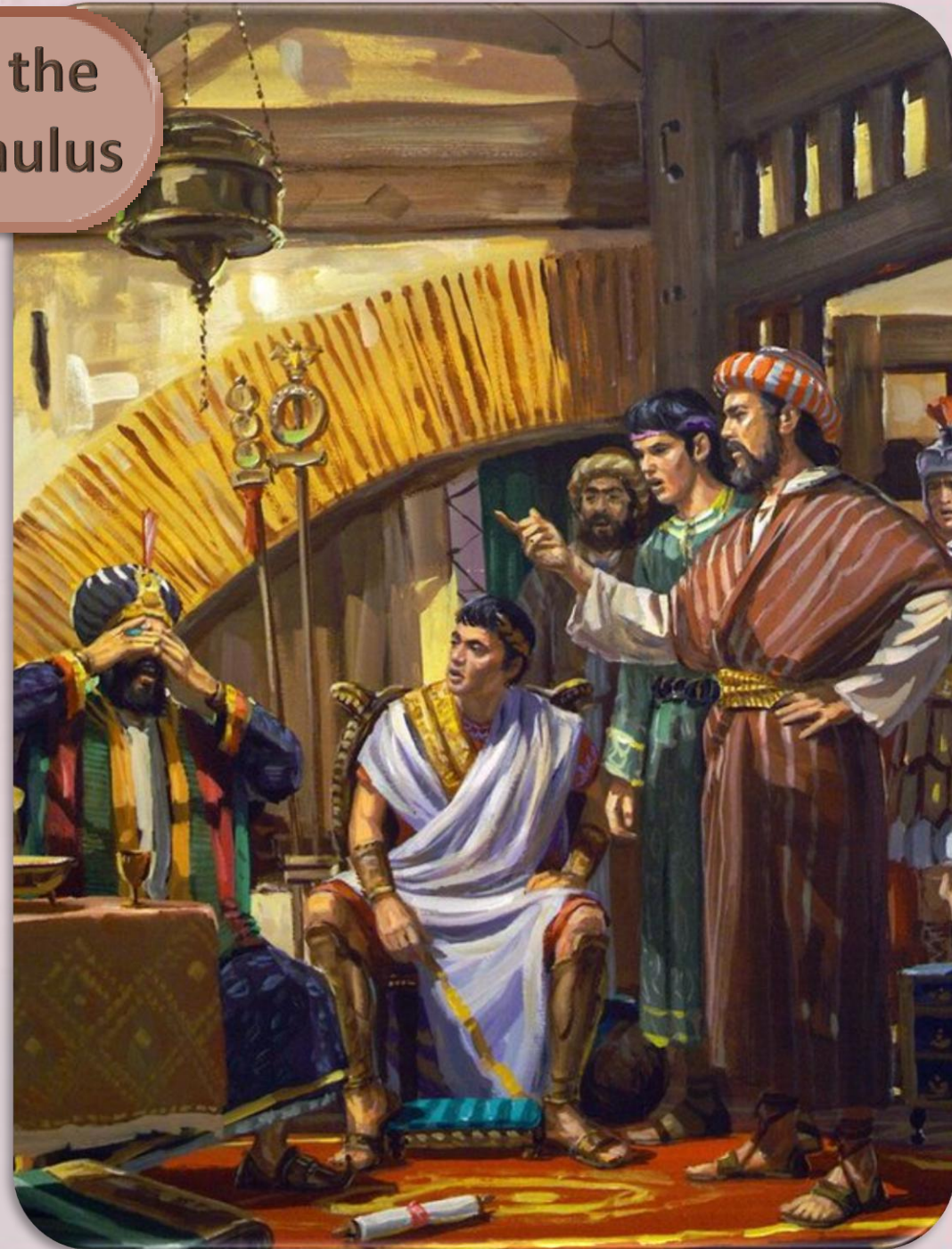
Acts 13:4-12

Mission in Favor of the Powerful: Sergius Paulus



The proconsul Sergius Paulus, governor of Cyprus, a wise man, called Barnabas and Paul, because he desired to hear the word of God. A certain magician, a false prophet, a Jew, named Elymas, sought to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

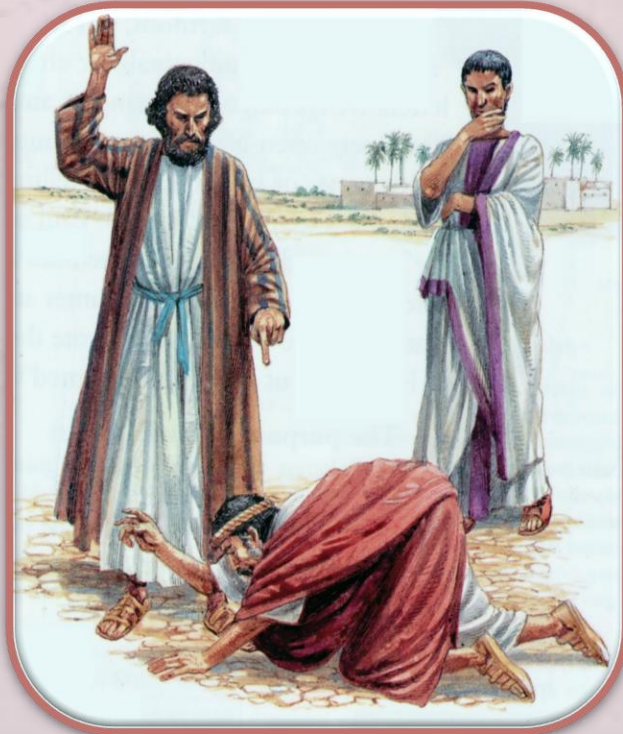
Paul rebuked Elymas and foretold that the Lord was going to blind him for a while. The proconsul, seeing what had happened, believed, marveling at the doctrine of the Lord.



Not without a struggle does Satan allow the kingdom of God to be built up in the earth. The forces of evil are engaged in unceasing warfare against the agencies appointed for the spread of the gospel, and these powers of darkness are especially active when the truth is proclaimed before men of repute and sterling integrity. Thus it was when Sergius Paulus, the deputy of Cyprus, was listening to the gospel message. The deputy had sent for the apostles, that he might be instructed in the message they had come to bear, and now the forces of evil, working through the sorcerer Elymas, sought with their baleful suggestions to turn him from the faith and so thwart the purpose of God. Thus the fallen foe ever works to keep in his ranks men of influence who, if converted, might render effective service in God's cause. But the faithful gospel worker need not [168] fear defeat at the hand of the enemy; for it is his privilege to be endued with power from above to withstand every satanic influence. AA 167-168



It is the duty of the minister of Christ to stand faithful at his post, in the fear of God and in the power of His might. Thus he may put to confusion the hosts of Satan and may triumph in the name of the Lord. (AA 169)



The sorcerer had closed his eyes to the evidences of gospel truth, and the Lord, in righteous anger, caused his natural eyes to be closed, shutting out from him the light of day. This blindness was not permanent, but only for a season, that he might be warned to repent and seek pardon of the God whom he had so grievously offended. The confusion into which he was thus brought made of no effect his subtle arts against the doctrine of Christ. The fact that he was obliged to grope about in blindness proved to all that the miracles which the apostles had performed, and which Elymas had denounced as sleight of hand, were wrought by the power of God. The deputy, convinced of the truth of the doctrine taught by the apostles, accepted the gospel. [AA 168]



The fallen enemy is working to keep these men of influence in his ranks, for he knows that if they are converted they will be able to render effective service in the cause of God.



We must speak to them without fear of being defeated by the enemy; For it is our privilege to be endowed with heavenly power to resist all satanic influence.

And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.(Luke 12:11-12)

Acts 13:14-42

Mission Among the Jews

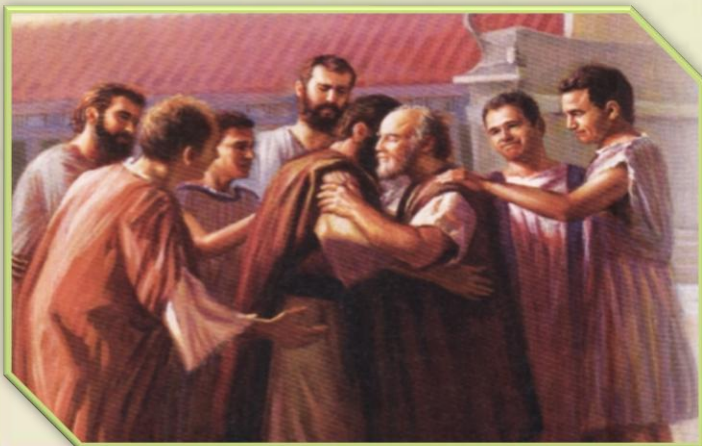


Paul and Barnabas in Antioch entered the synagogue on a Sabbath. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue asked them to speak to them. Paul began by reminding them of the past history they knew, until introducing them to Jesus:

- God had chosen their parents.
- He had brought them out of Egypt.
- Forty years he endured them in the desert.
- He destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan.
- He gave them their territory as an inheritance.
- For four hundred and fifty years, he gave them judges until the prophet Samuel.
- They asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin.
- When he had taken him away, he raised David up as king for them.
- From his seed, and according to the promise, God raised up Jesus to be Savior to Israel.
- Before His coming, John preached the baptism of repentance.
- John the Baptist pointed to Him as the Messiah.
- The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers asked Pilate to have Him killed.
- God raised Him from the dead and He saw no corruption.
- By means of Him, forgiveness of sins is preached to you, and all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses, in Him everyone who believes is justified.



And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. (Acts 13:42-49)



But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 13:50-52)





Among believers, we must tell the story we have in common and then lead them to learn the new truths.



Let us always highlight Jesus: His life, His death, His resurrection, and His work today.

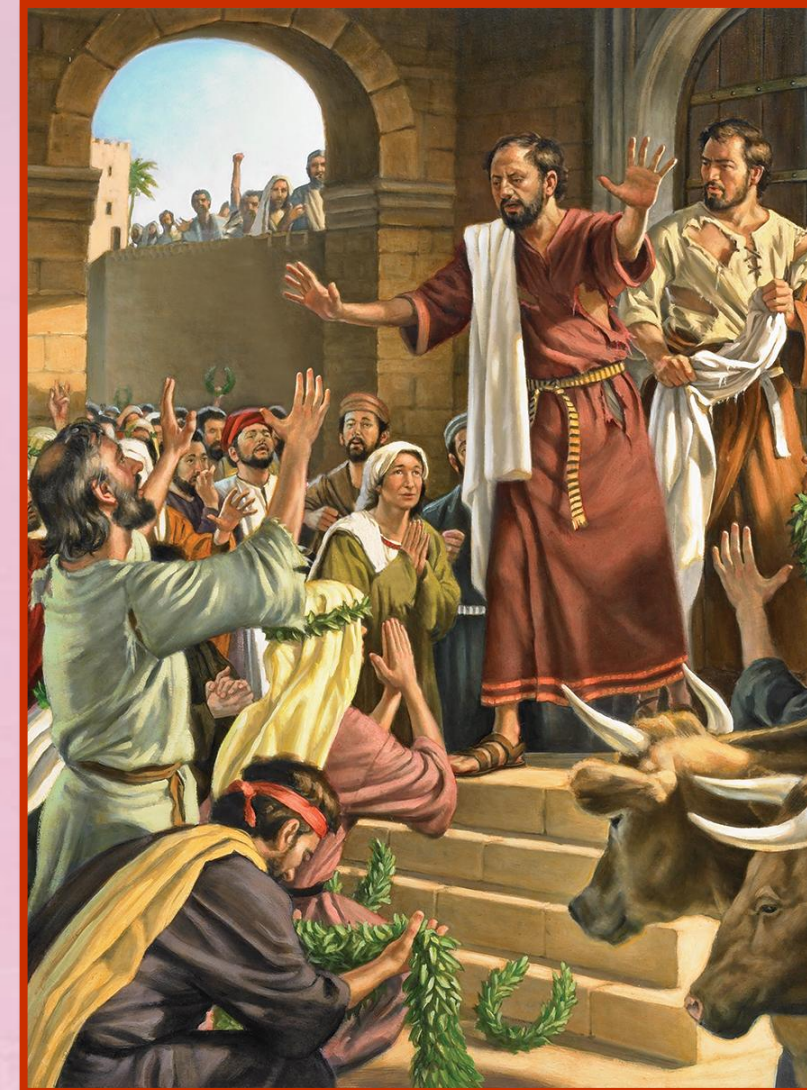
**This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders,
which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there
salvation in any other: for there is none other name under
heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
(Acts 4:11-12)**



Acts 14:8-23

Mission to Idolaters or Pagans

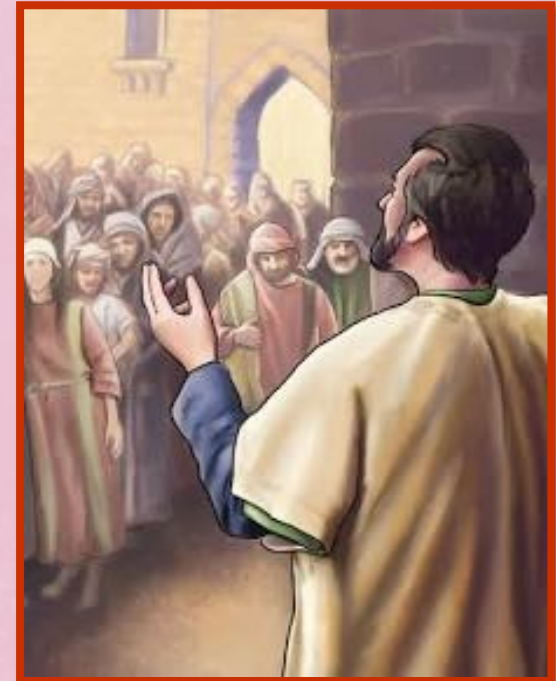
In Lystra Paul healed a lame man. The people, when they saw the miracle, thought they were gods. The priest of Jupiter brought bulls and garlands, and with the crowd he wanted to offer sacrifices to them. Barnabas and Paul tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, crying out and saying, "Men, why are you doing this? We also are men like you, who proclaim to you that from these vanities you turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them..." Jews persuaded the crowd to stone Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead. But the disciples surrounded him, and he arose and entered the city; and the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

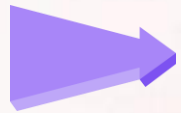


The apostles endeavored to impart to these idolaters a knowledge of God the Creator and of His Son, the Saviour of the human race. They first directed attention to the wonderful works of God—the sun, the moon, and the stars, the beautiful order of the recurring seasons, the mighty snow-capped mountains, the lofty trees, and other varied wonders of nature, which showed a skill beyond human comprehension. Through these works of the Almighty, the apostles led the minds of the heathen to a contemplation of the great Ruler of the universe. AA 180



Having made plain these fundamental truths concerning the Creator, the apostles told the Lystrians of the Son of God, who came from heaven to our world because He loved the children of men. They spoke of His life and ministry, His rejection by those He came to save, His trial and crucifixion, His resurrection, and His ascension to heaven, there to act as man's advocate. Thus, in the Spirit [181] and power of God, Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel in Lystra. AA 180-181





When you speak to others, seek that they worship God and not you.



If you talk to people who do not believe, or do not know Christianity, or believe in superstitions, strive to impart to them a knowledge of God the Creator first and then of his Son, the Savior of the human species.

Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee. (Nehemiah 9:6)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Acts 15:1-21

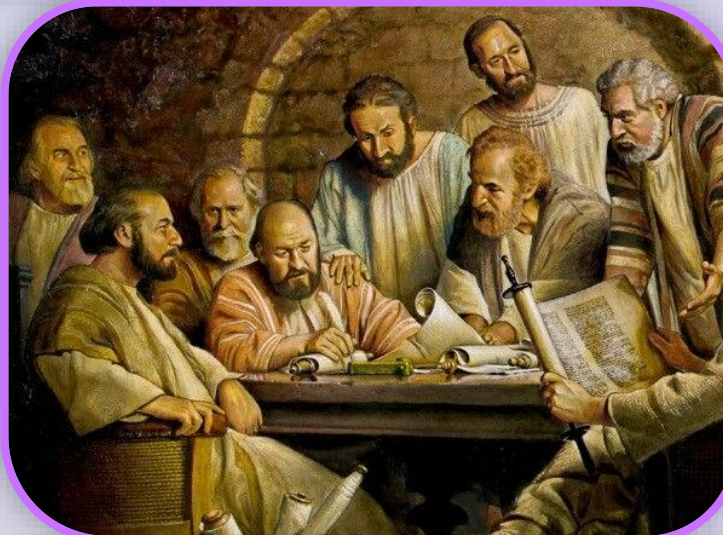
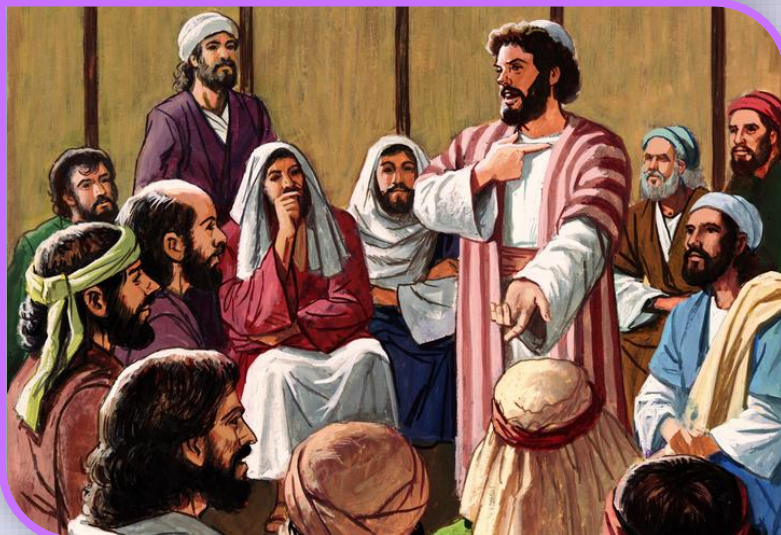
Controversies in the Mission

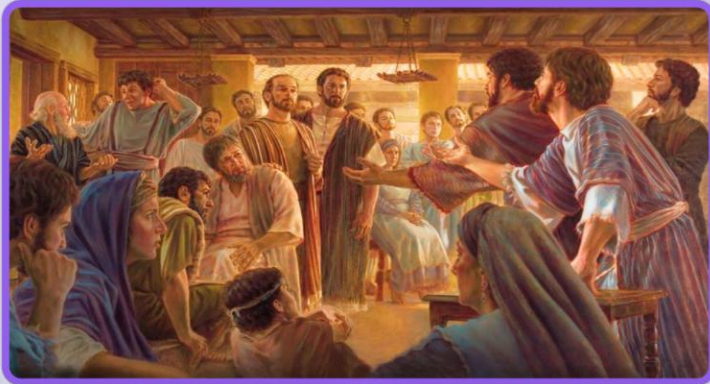


Some Jews taught among the Gentiles that they had to be circumcised to be saved.

There was a great discussion with Paul and Barnabas, and it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas should go up to Jerusalem, and some of them, the apostles and elders, to discuss this question. They gathered in Jerusalem and told what God had done among the Gentiles. Peter also gave his testimony.

After everyone gave their opinion, they came to an agreement and wrote a letter to be read in the churches of the Gentiles. They sent this letter with Paul, Barnabas, Judas, and Silas.





In the church at Antioch the consideration of the question of circumcision resulted in much discussion and contention. Finally, the members of the church, fearing that a division among them would be the outcome of continued discussion, decided to send Paul and Barnabas, with some responsible men from the church, to Jerusalem to lay the matter before the apostles and elders. There they were to meet delegates from the different churches and those who had come to Jerusalem to attend the approaching festivals. Meanwhile all controversy was to cease until a final decision should be given in general council. This decision was then to be universally accepted by the different churches throughout the country. AA 190



Peter's address brought the assembly to a point where they could listen with patience to Paul and Barnabas, who related their experience in working for the Gentiles. "All the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them." AA 194

The Gentile converts, however, were to give up the customs that were inconsistent with the principles of Christianity. The apostles and elders therefore agreed to instruct the Gentiles by letter to abstain from meats offered to idols, from fornication, from things strangled, and from blood. They were to be urged to keep the commandments and to lead holy lives. They were also to be assured that the men who had declared circumcision to be binding were not authorized to do so by the apostles. Paul and Barnabas were recommended to them as men who had hazarded their lives for the Lord. Judas and Silas were sent with these apostles to declare to the Gentiles by word of mouth the decision of the council: "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater [196] burden than these necessary things; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well." The four servants of God were sent to Antioch with the epistle and message that was to put an end to all controversy; for it was the voice of the highest authority upon the earth.



**When the mission is carried out, problems arise, what to do?
Let's see what they did and imitate them.**

-  **Apostles and elders, delegates from the different churches, and those who had come to Jerusalem to attend the upcoming feasts gathered.**
-  **They exposed the problem.**
-  **They told of the wonders and signs that God had done among the Gentiles.**
-  **They prayed asking the Holy Spirit to solve the problem.**
-  **James, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, summarized the resolution they had made.**
-  **They chose people filled with the Holy Spirit to go and inform the established churches, comfort and confirm the brethren with an abundance of words.**

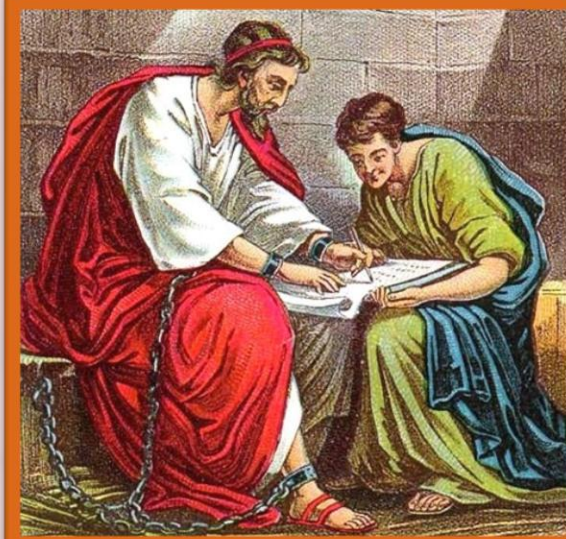
Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

**Acts 16:1-3; 1
Corinthians
4:17; 16:10**

Choosing Leaders for Mission

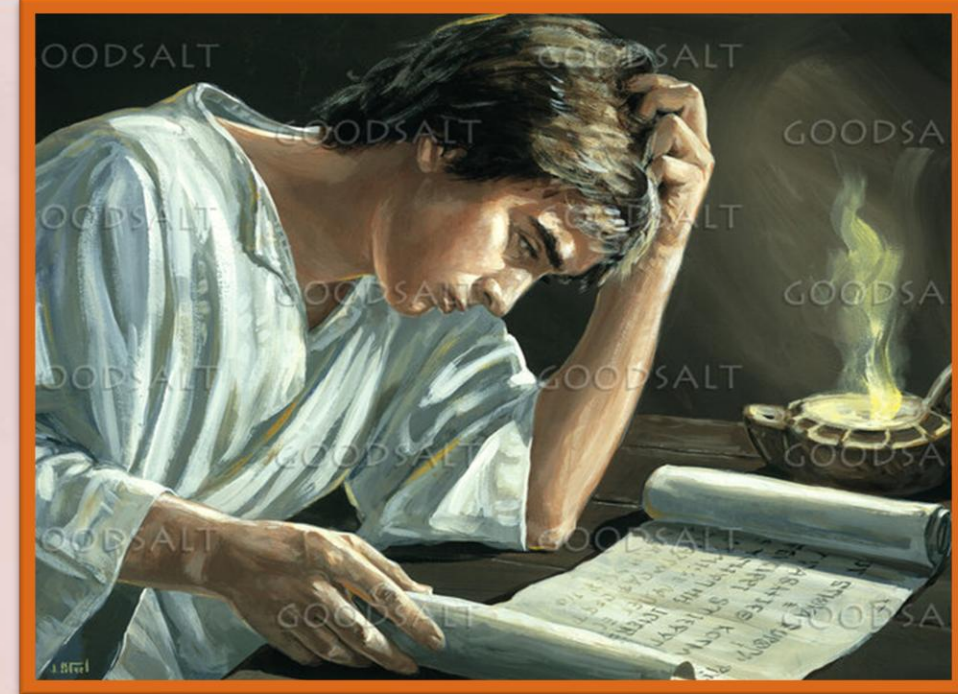
Paul came to Derbe and Lystra and chose Timothy to help him. Timothy was of good witness for his consecration and his "unfeigned faith." He was young, no more than 18 to 20 years old.

His mother and grandmother had taught him the scriptures as a child. He wasn't physically strong. He seems to have been emotional. Timothy was Paul's co-worker, and his co-worker on the second journey. On the third voyage he accompanied him, at least, as far as Troas. He was Paul's messenger to Corinth and Thessalonica. He must have been in Rome with Paul during his first imprisonment, for he appears in the Epistle to the Philippians, in Colossians, and in Philemon. From Hebrews 13:23, we know that he was in prison and was set free.

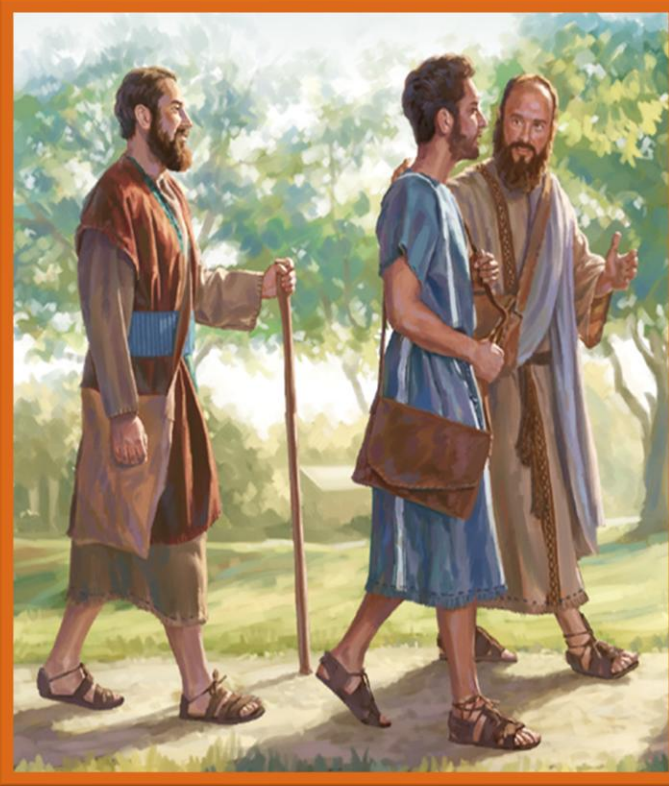


In Timothy, Paul saw one who understood the holiness of the work of the ministry; one who did not faint in the face of suffering and persecution; and that he was willing to be taught...

Timothy's father was Greek and his mother Jewish. From childhood he had known the scriptures. The godliness he saw in his home life was wholesome and sane. His mother's and grandmother's faith in the sacred oracles was to him a constant reminder of the blessing that comes with doing God's will. God's Word was the rule by which these two godly women had led Timothy. The spiritual power of the lessons he had received from them kept his language pure and prevented him from being contaminated by the evil influences around him. Thus, those who instructed him at home had cooperated with God in preparing him to bear responsibilities.



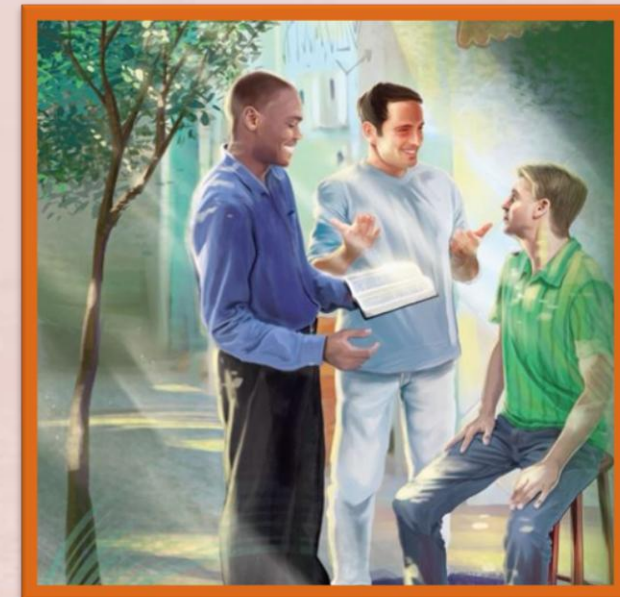
Paul saw that Timothy was faithful, steadfast, and true, and he chose him as a companion in labor and travel. Those who had taught Timothy in his childhood were rewarded by seeing the son of their care linked in close fellowship with the great apostle. Timothy was a mere youth when he was chosen by God to be a teacher, but his principles had been so established by his early education that he was fitted to take his place as Paul's helper. And though young, he bore his responsibilities with Christian meekness. As a precautionary measure, Paul wisely advised Timothy to be circumcised—not that God required it, but in order to remove from the minds of the Jews that which might be an objection to Timothy's ministration. AA 203-204



Paul loved Timothy, his "own son in the faith." 1 Timothy 1:2. The great apostle often drew the younger disciple out, questioning him in regard to Scripture history, and as they traveled from place to place, he carefully taught him how to do successful work. Both Paul and Silas, in all their association with Timothy, sought to deepen the impression that had already been made upon his mind, of the sacred, serious nature of the work of the gospel minister. In his work, Timothy constantly sought Paul's advice and instruction. He did not move from impulse, but exercised consideration and calm thought, inquiring at every step, Is this the way of the Lord? The Holy Spirit found in him one who could be molded and fashioned as a temple for the indwelling of the divine Presence.

As the lessons of the Bible are wrought into the daily life, they have a deep and lasting influence upon the character. These lessons Timothy learned and practiced. He had no specially brilliant talents, but his work was valuable because he used his God-given abilities in the Master's service. His knowledge of experimental piety distinguished him from other believers and gave him influence. AA 204-205

Those who labor for souls must attain to a deeper, fuller, clearer knowledge of God than can be gained by ordinary effort. They must throw all their energies into the work of the Master. They are engaged in a high and holy calling, and if they gain souls for their hire they must lay firm hold upon God, daily receiving grace and power from the Source of all blessing. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14. AA 205



The mission of choosing leaders is extremely important.

What qualities should the person who is going to work on the mission have?

-  **Understand the holiness of the work of the ministry.**
-  **Not fainting in the face of suffering and persecution.**
-  **Willing to be taught.**
-  **Pious, faithful, firm and sincere.**
-  **God's Word is his rule.**
-  **Keep language pure and avoid being contaminated by bad influences.**
-  **Put all energies into the Lord's work.**
-  **Hold fast to God and go to the Source of all blessing to receive daily grace and power.**

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.(2 Timothy 4:1-2)

Acts 16:12-15

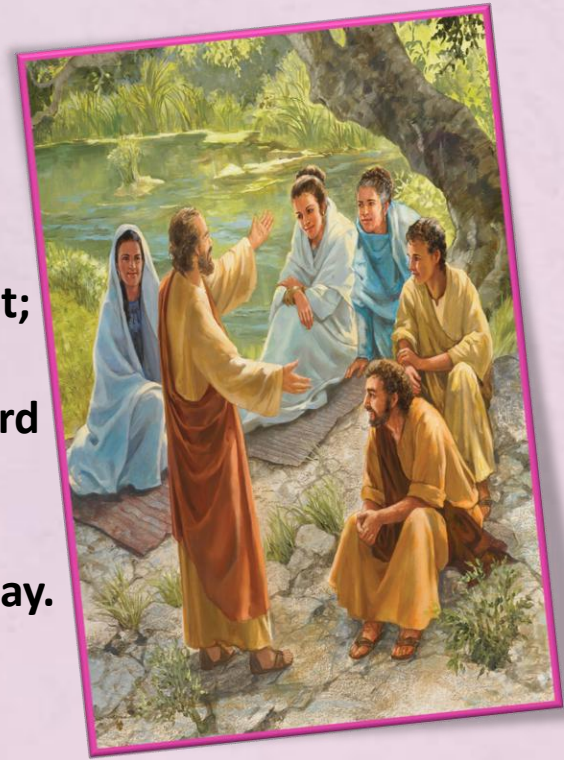
Mission Among Jewish Women by the River

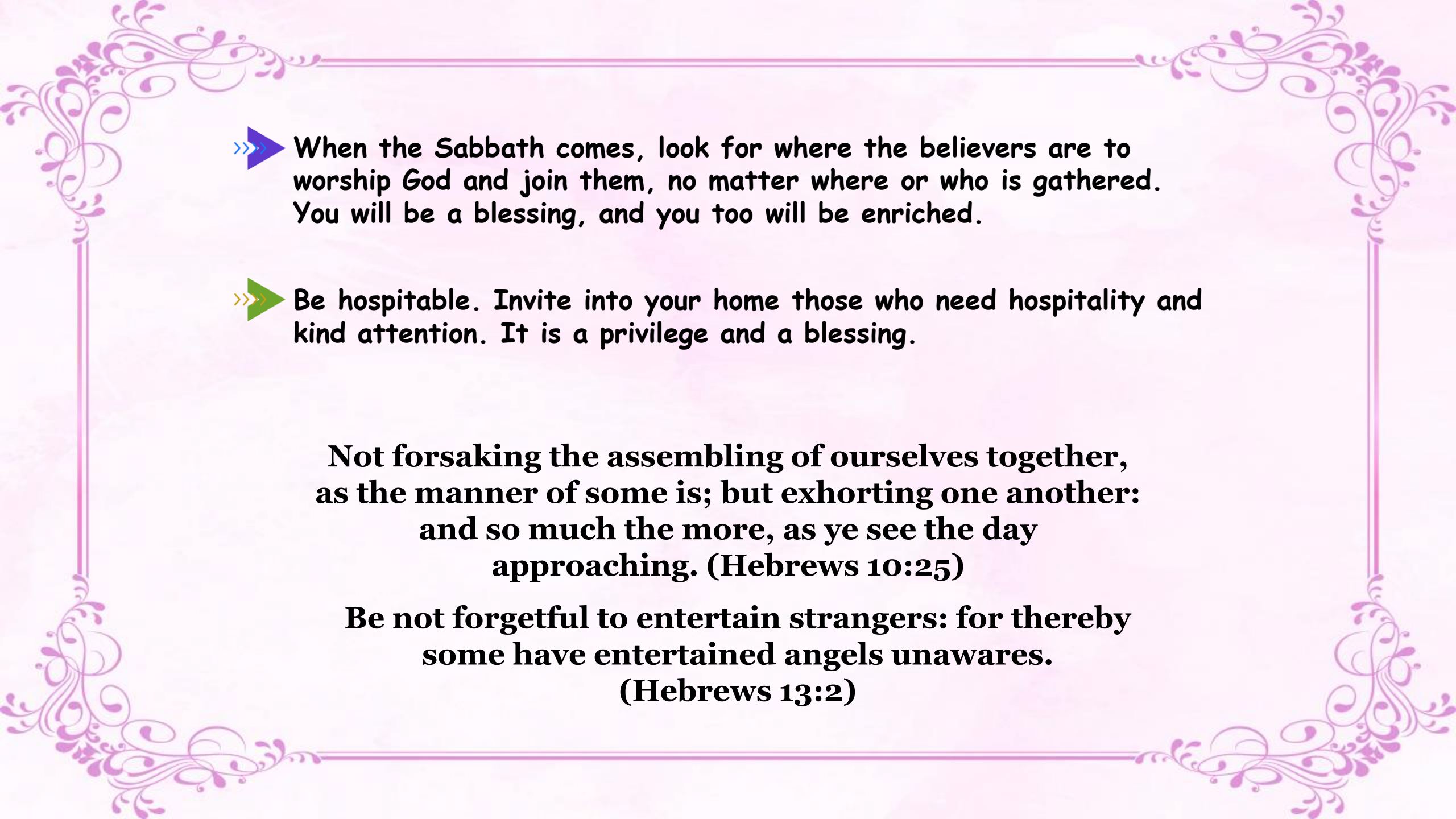
When the apostles arrived in Philippi, one Sabbath they went by the river, where prayer was wont; and they spoke to the women who had gathered.

Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshipped God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to listen to what Paul was saying.

And when she and her family were baptized, she pleaded with the apostles, saying, "If you have judged that I am faithful to the Lord, come into my house and rest." And he compelled them to stay.

True meekness softens and subdues the heart and gives the mind a fitness for the engrafted word. It brings the thoughts into obedience to Jesus Christ. It opens the heart to the word of God, as Lydia's was opened. SL 14.2



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- ▶▶ When the Sabbath comes, look for where the believers are to worship God and join them, no matter where or who is gathered. You will be a blessing, and you too will be enriched.
 - ▶▶ Be hospitable. Invite into your home those who need hospitality and kind attention. It is a privilege and a blessing.

**Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,
as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another:
and so much the more, as ye see the day
approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)**

**Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby
some have entertained angels unawares.
(Hebrews 13:2)**

Acts 16:16-40

Mission in Difficult Circumstances

A girl who had a spirit of divination followed Paul and Barnabas, saying: "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. This displeased Paul, and he cast the spirit from her.

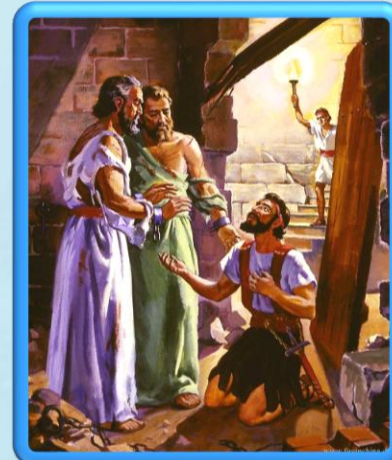
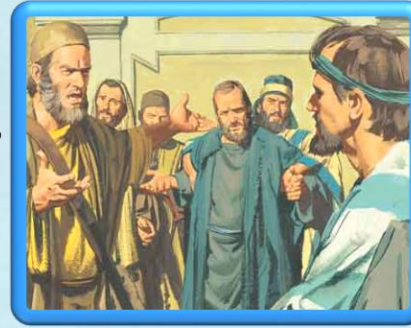
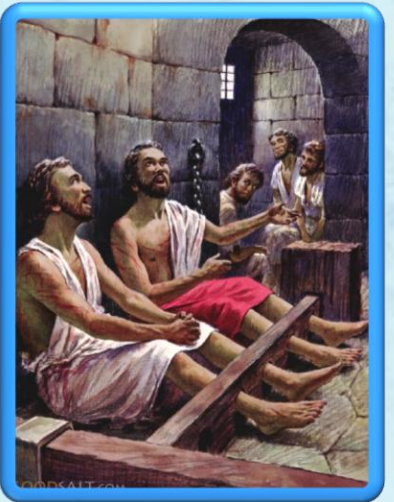
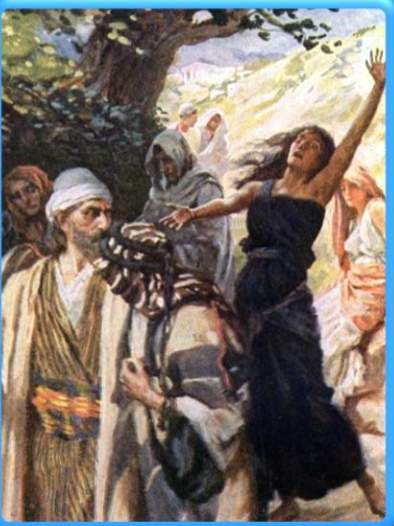
Her masters, seeing that they could no longer make money from her, had Paul and Silas arrested, and brought them before the authorities.

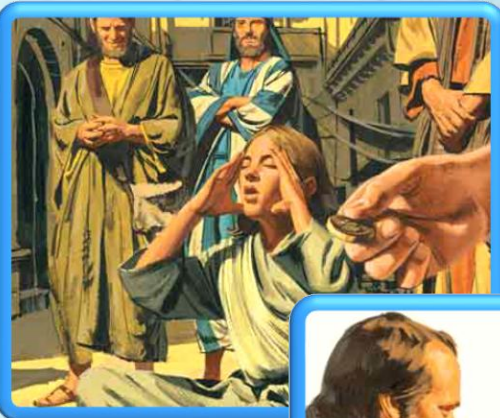
The magistrates, tearing their clothes, whipped them a lot and put them in prison.

At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed, sang hymns to God, and the prisoners heard them. Then there was a great earthquake and all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were loosened. The jailer, seeing this, drew his sword and went to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. Paul cried out, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

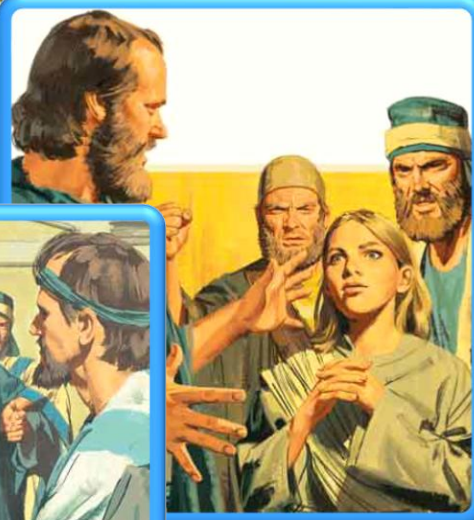
So he asked for light, and went in, and fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. He took them out and said to them, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." That same night, he was baptized with his entire household.

The magistrates wanted to release them in secret. But Paul said to them, "After we were publicly scourged without a court sentence, when we were Roman citizens, they threw us into prison, and now they cast us out covertly? No, by the way, but they come themselves to get us out." The magistrates were afraid and begged them to leave the city.





For some time the apostles endured this opposition; then under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost Paul commanded the evil spirit to leave the woman. Her immediate silence testified that the apostles were the servants of God and that the demon had acknowledged them to be such and had obeyed their command. Dispossessed of the evil spirit and restored to her right mind, the woman chose to become a follower of Christ. AA 212-213



Stirred by a frenzy of excitement, the multitude rose against the disciples. A mob spirit prevailed and was sanctioned by the authorities, who tore the outer garments from the apostles and commanded that they should be scourged. "And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely: who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks." The apostles suffered extreme torture because of the painful position in which they were left, but they did not murmur. Instead, in the utter darkness and desolation of the dungeon, they encouraged each other by words of prayer and sang praises to God because they were found worthy to suffer shame for His sake. Their hearts were cheered by a deep and earnest love for the cause of their Redeemer. Paul thought of the persecution he had been instrumental in bringing upon the disciples of Christ, and he rejoiced that his eyes had been opened to see, and his heart to feel, the power of the glorious truths which once he despised. AA 213-214



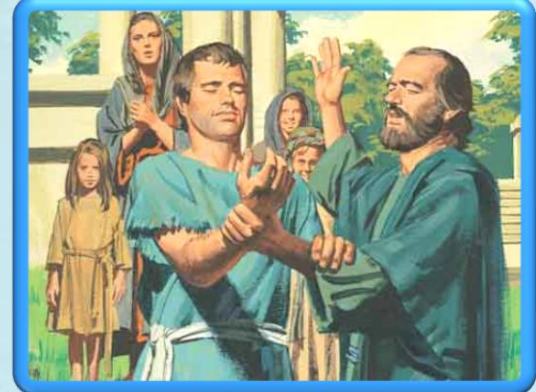
With astonishment the other prisoners heard the sound of prayer and singing issuing from the inner prison. They had been accustomed to hear shrieks and moans, cursing and swearing, breaking the silence of the night; but never before had they heard words of prayer and praise ascending from that gloomy cell. Guards and prisoners marveled and asked themselves who these men could be, who, cold, hungry, and tortured, could yet rejoice. AA 214



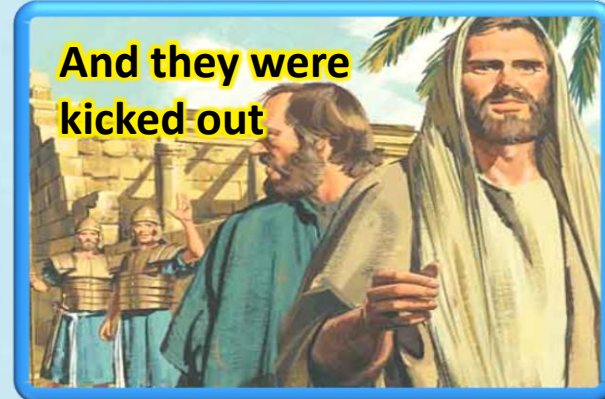
But while men were cruel and vindictive, or criminally negligent of the solemn responsibilities devolving upon them, God had not forgotten to be gracious to His servants. All heaven was interested in the men who were suffering for Christ's sake, and angels were sent to visit the prison. At their tread the earth trembled. The heavily bolted prison doors were thrown open; the chains and fetters fell from the hands and feet of the prisoners; and a bright light flooded the prison.



The keeper of the jail had heard with amazement the prayers and songs of the imprisoned apostles. When they were led in, he had seen their swollen and bleeding wounds, and had himself caused their feet to be fastened in the stocks. He had expected to hear from them bitter groans and imprecations, but he heard instead songs of joy and praise. With these sounds in his ears the jailer had fallen into a sleep from which he was awakened by the earthquake and the shaking of the prison walls. Starting up in alarm, he saw with dismay that all the prison doors were open, and the fear flashed upon him that the prisoners had escaped... AA 215



The jailer had trembled as he beheld the wrath of God manifested in the earthquake; when he thought that the prisoners had escaped he had been ready to die by his own hand; but now all these things seemed of little consequence compared with the new, strange dread that agitated his mind, and his desire to possess the tranquillity and cheerfulness shown by the apostles under suffering and abuse. He saw in their countenances the light of heaven; AA 216



With deep humility he asked the apostles to show him the way of life. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house," they answered; and "they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house." The jailer then washed the wounds of the apostles and ministered to them, after which he was baptized by them, with all his household. A sanctifying influence diffused itself among the inmates of the prison, and the minds of all were opened to listen to the truths spoken by the apostles. They were convinced that the God whom these men served had miraculously released them from bondage. AA 217

Performing the mission you will go through adverse situations. How to react?

-  Endure opposition until the Holy Spirit tells you otherwise.
-  When you are treated badly unjustly, praise God and pray. Despite suffering cold, hunger, or torture, rejoice in the Lord.
-  May your heart be animated by a deep and fervent love for the cause of your Redeemer.
-  Do what you can so that others do not get hurt or suffer.
-  There are people who need to know the Savior, even if they seem lost.
-  Talk about Jesus. When asked, tell them: "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31) and speak to them the word of the Lord.
-  The kind of challenge Paul issued to the city authorities can be done only by a consecrated Christian, led by the Spirit. This method does not condone bellicose self-defense on the part of believers when they are accused.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corintios 4:17-18)



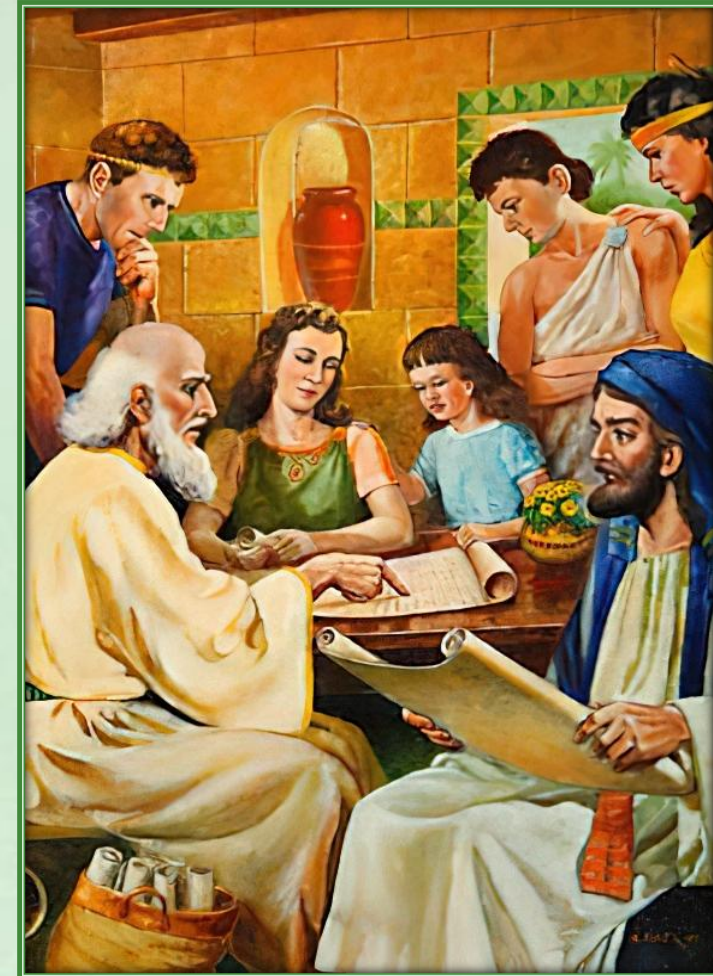
Acts 17:10-12

Mission Among Bible Students

The minds of the Bereans were not narrowed by prejudice. They were willing to investigate the truthfulness of the doctrines preached by the apostles. AA 231

They studied the Bible, not from curiosity, but in order that they might learn what had been written concerning the promised Messiah. Daily they searched the inspired records, and as they compared scripture with scripture, heavenly angels were beside them, enlightening their minds and impressing their hearts.

Wherever the truths of the gospel are proclaimed, those who honestly desire to do right are led to a diligent searching of the Scriptures. If, in the closing scenes of this earth's history, those to whom testing truths are proclaimed would follow the example of the Bereans, searching the Scriptures daily, and comparing with God's word the messages brought them, there would today be a large number loyal to the precepts of God's law, where now there are comparatively few. But when unpopular Bible truths are presented, many refuse to make this investigation. Though unable to controvert the plain teachings of Scripture, they yet manifest the utmost reluctance to study the evidences offered. Some assume that even if these doctrines are indeed true, it matters little whether or not they accept the new light, and they cling to pleasing fables which the enemy uses to lead souls astray. Thus, their minds are blinded by error, and they become separated from heaven. AA 232



➤ **Learn the Bible very well so that you can teach it correctly and thoroughly.**

➤ **Search the scriptures so that you can distinguish truth from error.**

All will be judged according to the light that has been given. The Lord sends forth His ambassadors with a message of salvation, and those who hear He will hold responsible for the way in which they treat the words of His servants. Those who are sincerely seeking for truth will make a careful investigation, in the light of God's word, of the doctrines presented to them. AA 232

**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
(2 Timothy 2:15)**

**And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures,
which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through
faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)**

Acts 17:16-34

Mission Among Philosophers

Paul was led to Athens by the brethren, and while there, he observed that the city was given over to idolatry. So, in the synagogue and in the squares, he talked to Jews and philosophers. He preached Jesus to them, and his resurrection. They wondered: What does this verbiage mean? Does he preach new gods?



Then they brought him to the Areopagus to explain himself. Paul began by praising them for being religious. Then he addressed them as equals and told them about the unknown God. He highlighted God as creator and showed that he is easy to find. He told them that they should not think that the Divinity was like gold, or silver, or stone, sculpture of art and of the imagination of men. That God wants them to repent because there is going to be a judgment presided over by Jesus, whom he raised from the dead. Some mocked and others believed, like Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damare, and others with them.

As Paul looked upon the beauty and grandeur surrounding him, and saw the city wholly given to idolatry, his spirit was stirred with jealousy for God, whom he saw dishonored on every side, and his heart was drawn out in pity for the people of Athens, who, notwithstanding their intellectual culture, were ignorant of the true God.



[At the Aeropagus] In that hour of solemn responsibility, the apostle was calm and self-possessed. His heart was burdened with an important message, and the words that fell from his lips convinced his hearers that he was no idle babbler. "Ye men of Athens," he said, "I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To the Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you." With all their intelligence and general knowledge, they were ignorant of the God who created the universe. Yet there were some who were longing for greater light. They were reaching out toward the Infinite.



Paul drew the minds of his idolatrous hearers beyond the limits of their false religion to a true view of the Deity, whom they had styled the "Unknown God." This Being, whom he now declared unto them, was independent of man, needing nothing from human hands to add to His power and glory. The people were carried away with admiration for Paul's earnest and logical presentation of the attributes of the true God—of His creative power and the existence of His overruling providence. With earnest and fervid eloquence the apostle declared, "God that made the world and all things therein."

In that age of caste, when the rights of men were often unrecognized, Paul set forth the great truth of human brotherhood, declaring that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." In the sight of God all are on an equality...



In the ages of darkness that had preceded the advent of Christ, the divine Ruler had passed lightly over the idolatry of the heathen; but now, through His Son, He had sent men the light of truth; and He expected from all repentance unto salvation, not only from the poor and humble, but from the proud philosopher and the princes of the earth. "Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead." AA 238-239

- Ask God for wisdom to reach those who have a different way of thinking.
- Use new ways of preaching and adapt your speech to reach other groups.
- Look for the points you have in common to start talking to them.
- Use unconventional methods if necessary.
- Present Christ and his work.

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.(1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Acts 18:1-17

Mission Among Co-workers

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. (Acts 18:1-4)

Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. (Romans 16:3-4)

The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. (1 Corinthians 16:19)

The testimony of Paul and Aquila is that by their occupation they were tentmakers. While they preached the gospel, Paul and his companion wrought at their trade as tentmakers, and in doing this they could give a more thorough knowledge of Christ to those who heard them... In Corinth he [Paul] had lived and labored with Aquila and Priscilla, instructing them more perfectly in the truth. TDG 203



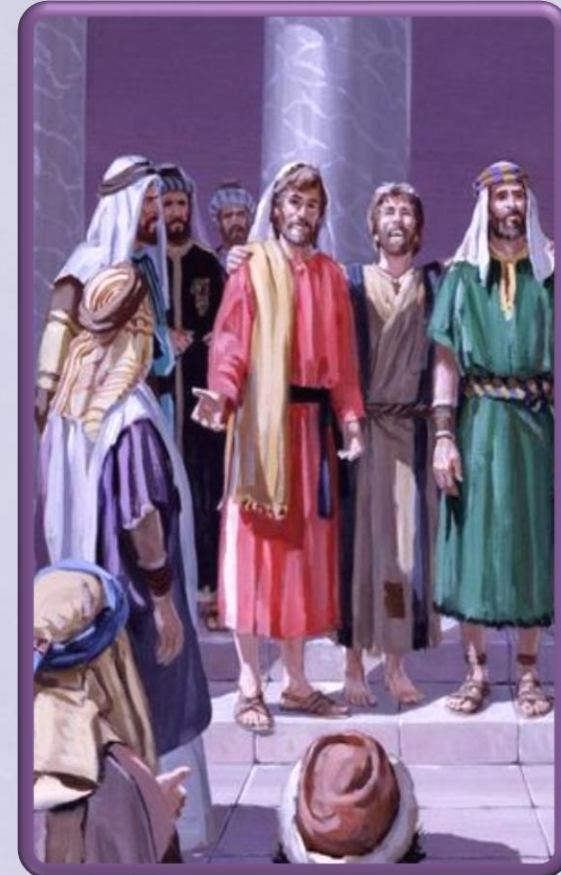
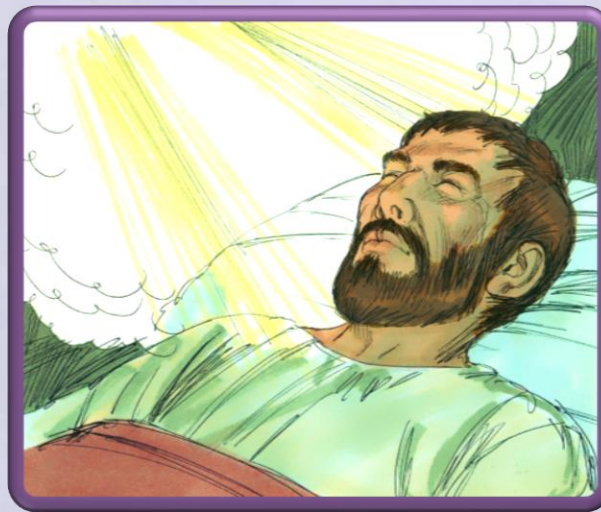
-  Remember your mission of salvation while you are working.
-  Be an example and speak of God to your coworkers.
-  Share Christ with everyone you interact with as you work.

**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?
(Romans 10:14)**

Acts 18:4-17

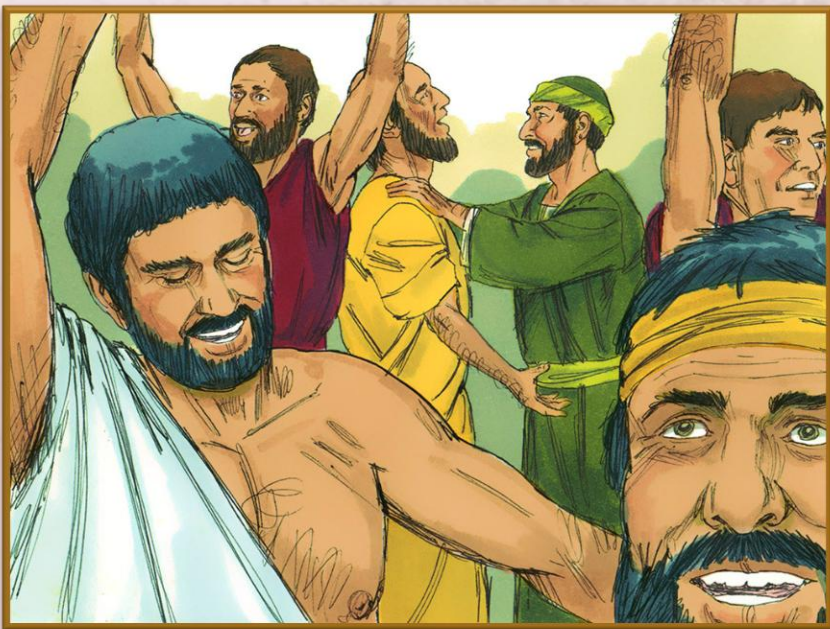
Encouraged by God on the Mission

[At Corinth] And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law. And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you: But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters. And he drave them from the judgment seat. Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things. (Acts 18:4-17)



- ➡ Give yourself completely to the preaching of the Word, testifying of Jesus.
- ➡ Many times you will encounter opposition, do not be discouraged. There are many people who still need you to tell them about the message of salvation.
- ➡ God will always be with you and will give you the encouragement you need.

**Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.
(Acts 18:9-10)**



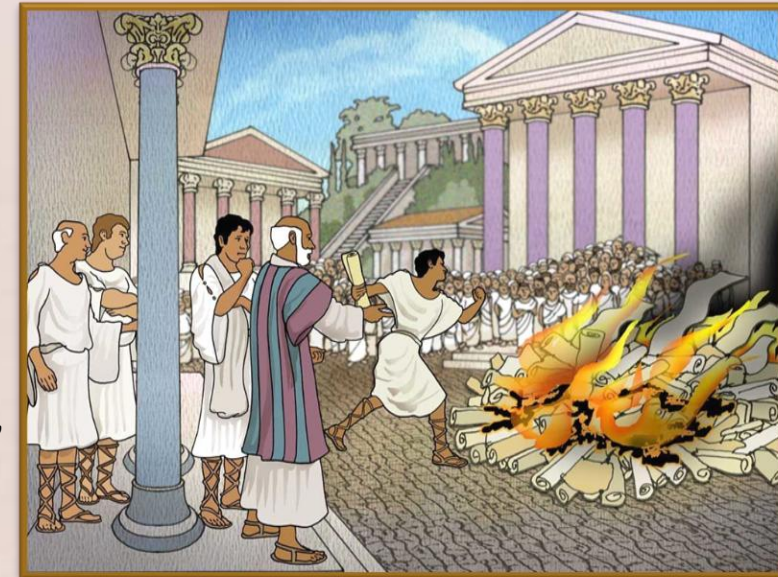
Acts 19:1-20

Mission Among Magic and Divination

Paul came to Ephesus and found some disciples whom he asked if they had received the Holy Spirit. They replied that they had not heard of Him, that they had been baptized in the baptism of John the Baptist. Paul spoke to them about Jesus, laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them; and they spoke in tongues, and prophesied. There were about twelve men.



God performed extraordinary miracles by the hand of Paul, even bringing the cloths or aprons of his body to the sick, and they healed, and the evil spirits came out. But some of the Jews, itinerant exorcists, seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jew, chief priest, tried to call upon the name of the Lord Jesus upon those who had evil spirits, but the evil spirit overpowered them. And this was known throughout Ephesus, both among Jews and Greeks; and they were all afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.



And many of those who had believed came, confessing and giving an account of their deeds. Likewise, many of those who had practiced magic brought the books and burned them in front of everyone; and when they had counted the price, they found that it was fifty thousand pieces of silver. Thus, the word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily.

These treatises on divination contained rules and forms of communication with evil spirits. They were the regulations of the worship of Satan—directions for soliciting his help and obtaining information from him. By retaining these books the disciples would have exposed themselves to temptation; by selling them they would have placed temptation in the way of others. They had renounced the kingdom of darkness, and to destroy its power they did not hesitate at any sacrifice. Thus truth triumphed over men's prejudices and their love of money. AA 288-289



The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the same as what is now known as modern spiritualism. Satan is finding access to thousands of minds by presenting himself under the guise of departed friends. The Scriptures declare that "the dead know not anything." Ecclesiastes 9:5. Their thoughts, their love, their hatred, have perished. The dead do not hold communion with the living. But true to his early cunning, Satan employs this device in order to gain control of minds. AA 289



The magicians of heathen times have their counterpart in the spiritualistic mediums, the clairvoyants, and the fortune-tellers of today. The mystic voices that spoke at Endor and at Ephesus are still by their lying words misleading the children of men. Could the veil be lifted from before our eyes, we should see evil angels employing all their arts to deceive and to destroy. Wherever an influence is exerted to cause men to forget God, there Satan is exercising his bewitching power. When men yield to his influence, ere they are aware the mind is bewildered and the soul polluted. The apostle's admonition to the Ephesian church should be heeded by the people of God today: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Ephesians 5:11. AA 290

→ Ask for the Holy Spirit for yourself and for others to be filled with Him as well.

→ Truth triumphs over men's prejudices, and also over their love of money.

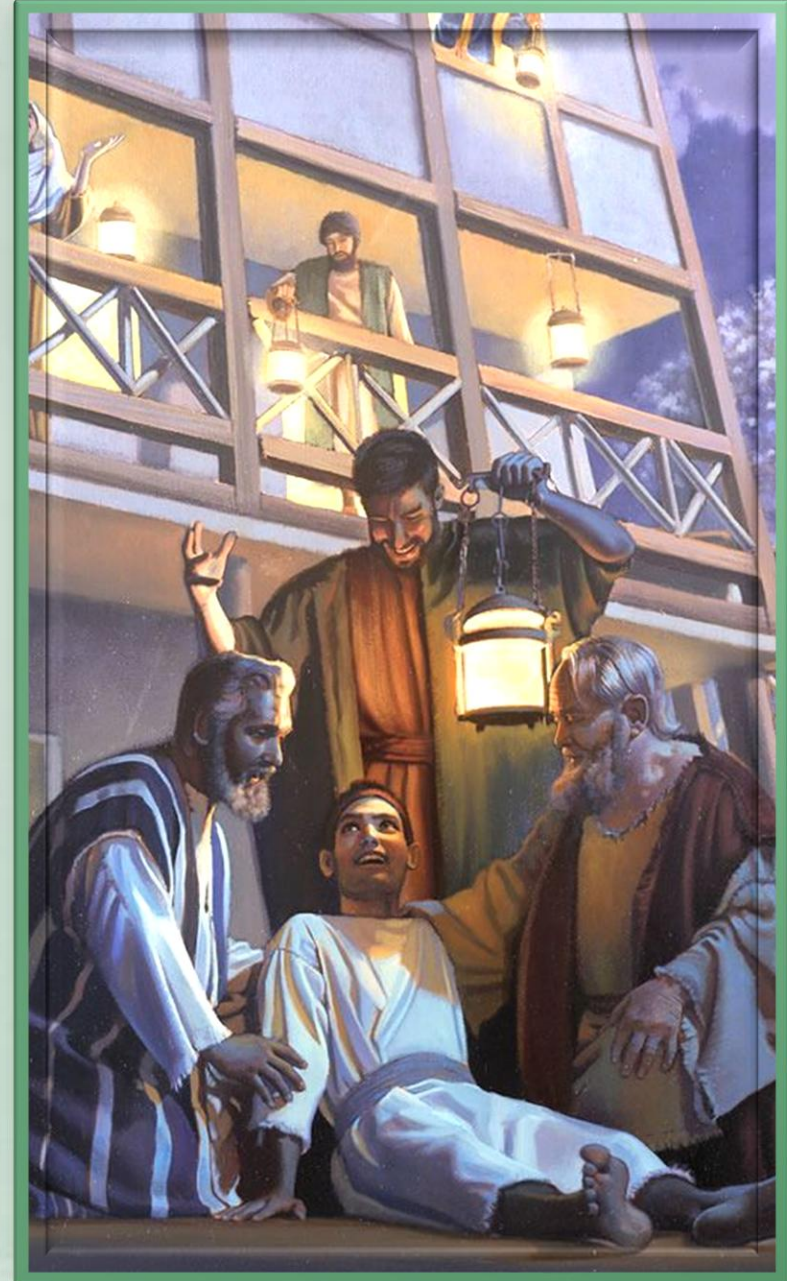
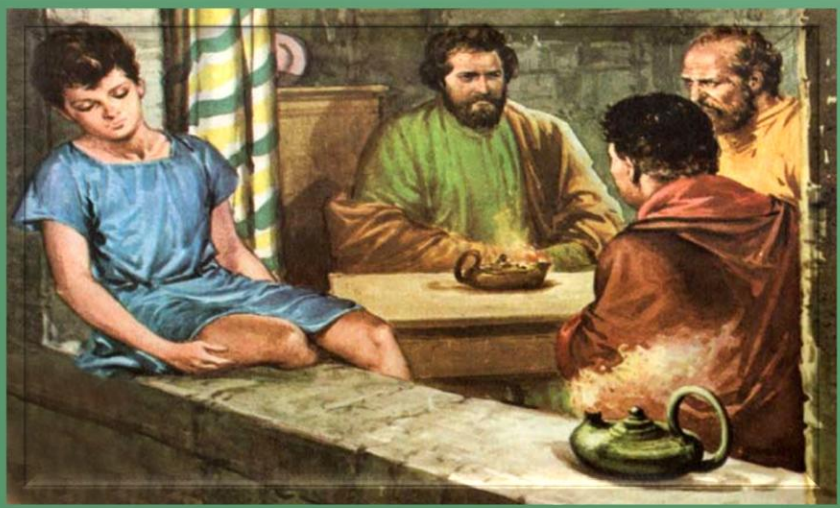
For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.(1 Corinthians 12:13)

**Regard not them that have familiar spirits,
neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them:
I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:31)**

Acts 20:7-12

Mission in the Case of Unforeseen Events

In one of the open windows sat a youth named Eutychus. In this perilous position he went to sleep and fell to the court below. At once all was alarm and confusion. The youth was taken up dead, and many gathered about him with cries and mourning. But Paul, passing through the frightened company, embraced him and offered up an earnest prayer that God would restore the dead to life. His petition was granted. Above the sound of mourning and lamentation the apostle's voice was heard, saying, "Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him." With rejoicing the believers again assembled in the upper chamber. They partook of the Communion, and then Paul "talked a long while, even till break of day." AA 391



- ▶ Pray to God when you are found in unexpected situations.
- ▶ In the face of unforeseen events that overwhelm us, remember that God works miracles so that his work continues.

**God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?
(Hebrews 2:4)**

**Acts 21:37 -
22:21**

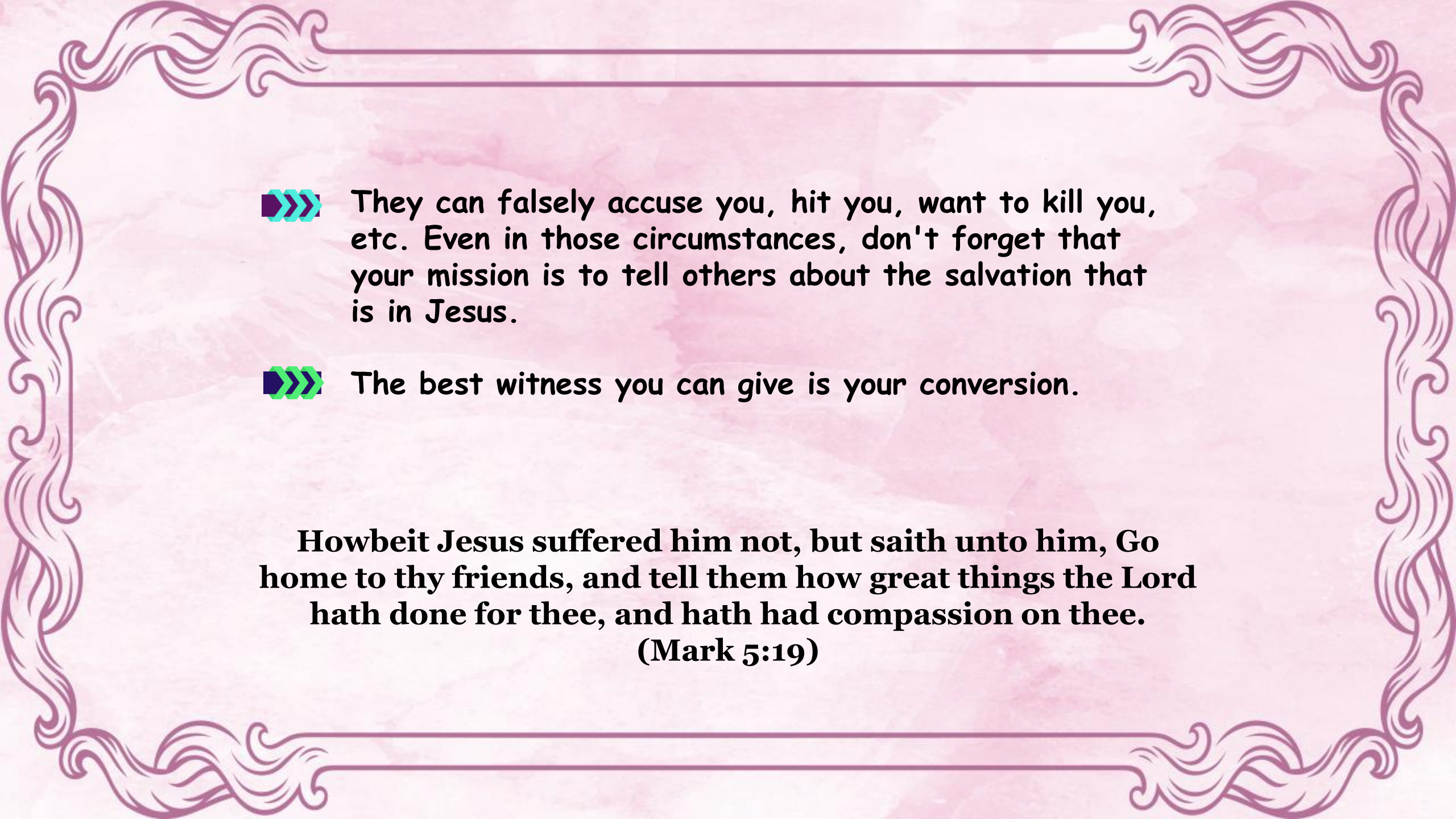
Mission Among Enemies

Paul went to the temple with four men who had taken a vow. When the seven days were about to be completed, some Jews from Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, shouting: "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who everywhere teaches everyone against the people, the law, and this place; and besides this, he has brought Greeks into the temple, and he has profaned this holy place." So the whole city was shaken; and seizing Paul, they dragged him out of the temple, and immediately shut the doors.

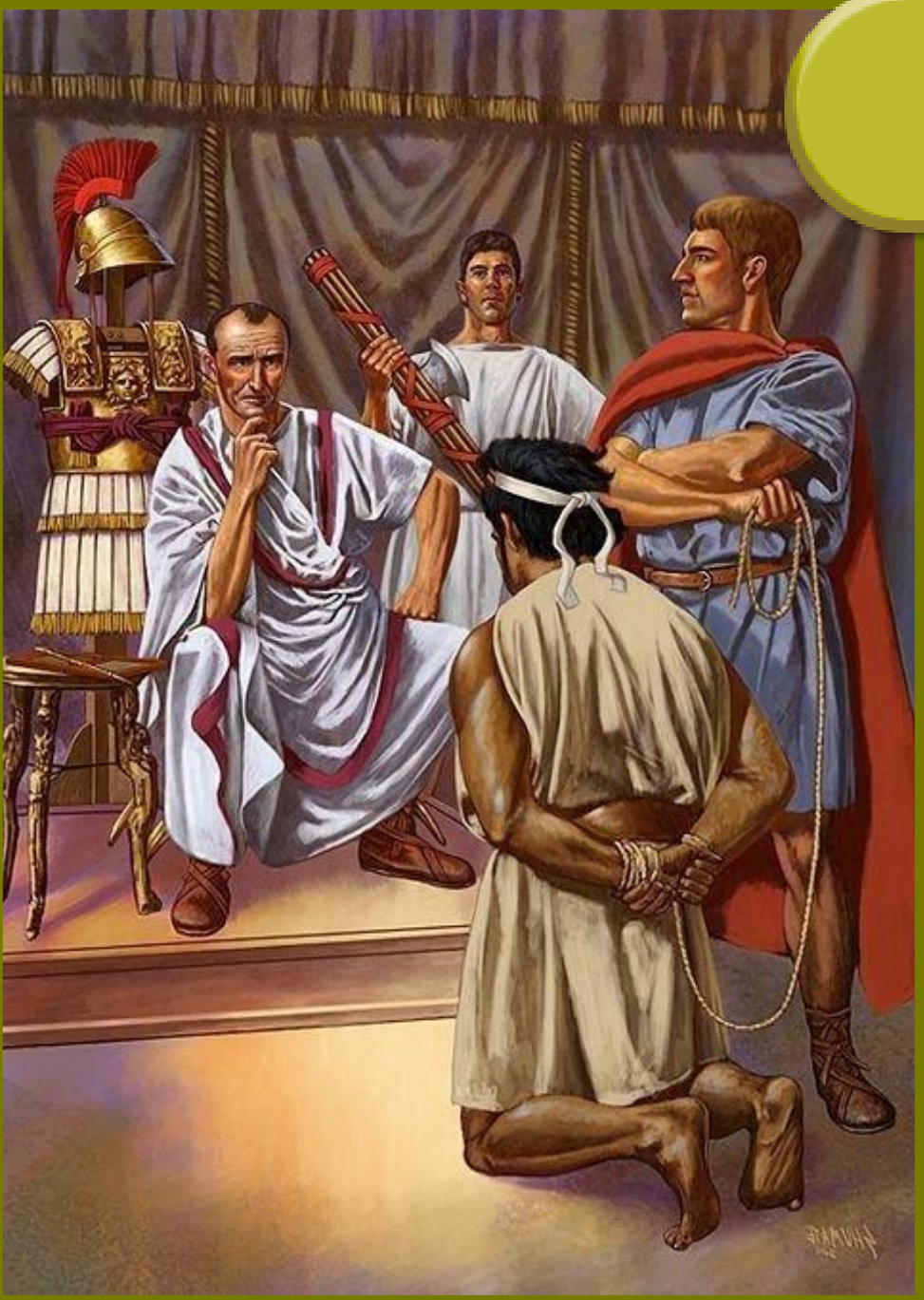
And as they sought to kill him, the tribune of the company was informed, and when he appeared they stopped beating Paul. The tribune seized him and ordered him to be bound with two chains, and asked who he was and what he had done. But as he could not understand anything because of the uproar, he ordered him to be taken to the fortress.

When they began to bring Paul into the fortress, he said to the tribune, "May I tell you something?" And he said, "Do you know Greek?" Are you not that Egyptian who raised a sedition before these days, and brought out into the desert the four thousand assassins?" Then Paul said, "I am indeed a Jewish man from Tarsus, but please allow me to speak to the people." And when he allowed it, Paul, standing on the steps, told of his conversion.



- 
- ▶▶▶ They can falsely accuse you, hit you, want to kill you, etc. Even in those circumstances, don't forget that your mission is to tell others about the salvation that is in Jesus.
 - ▶▶▶ The best witness you can give is your conversion.

**Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.
(Mark 5:19)**



Acts 24

Mission for the Powerful: Felix

The high priest Ananias with some of the elders and a certain orator named Tertullus went to Caesarea and appeared before Felix, the governor, accusing Paul of promoting seditions.

After the Jews had raised their objections, Felix let Paul speak. Paul complied with Felix's authority and explained that he had not made a fuss and that he was being accused because he had spoken of the resurrection of the dead.

Felix, being well informed of this "Way," dragged him off, saying that when the tribune Lysias came, he would give his verdict. So, he locked him up with some freedoms.

A few days later, Felix came with Drusilla his wife, who was a Jewess, and called Paul, and they heard him about faith in Jesus Christ.

But when Paul was discussing justice, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was terrified, and said, "Now go; but when I have a more convenient time, I will call you."

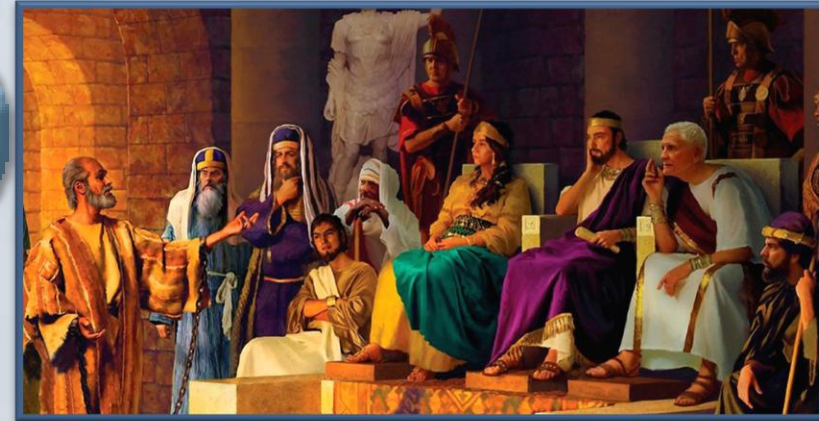
But at the end of two years Felix received Porcius Festus as his successor; and Felix, wishing to ingratiate himself with the Jews, left Paul in prison.

- Respect authority.
- Defend yourself wisely when you are accused of something false.
- Make it clear that you serve God.
- Those who have something against you must be present.
- In a well-calculated way, mention the episode for which you are accused from your point of view.
- Speak without fear.
- Teach faith in Jesus Christ when asked.
- Do not omit anything, even if the listener feels offended because he also needs to hear, this affects him.
- Keep talking and let the Holy Spirit work in their heart.
- Remember that each person's response is each person's decision, not the one who is talking to them.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15)

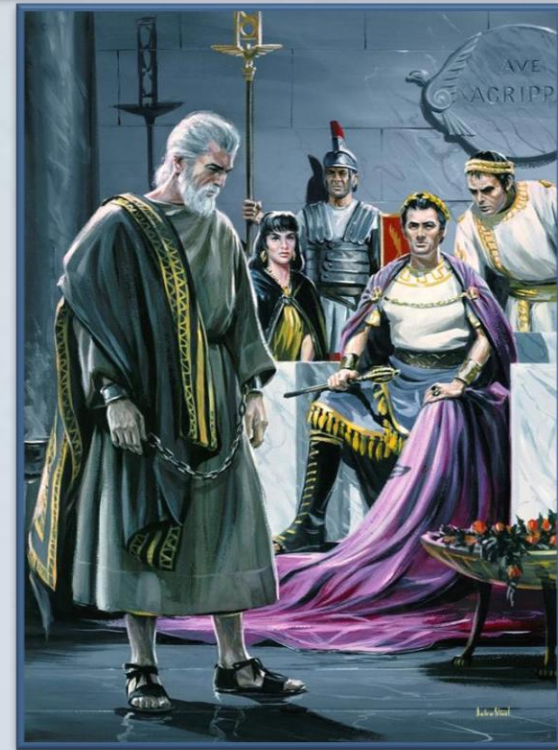
Acts 25:13-27; 26

Mission for the Powerful: Agrippa and Berenice



King Agrippa and his husband Berenice came to Caesarea to greet Festus, who told the king about Paul's cause. Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear that man too." And he said to him, "Tomorrow you will hear him." The next day, when Agrippa and Bernice came with much pomp, Paul was brought.

With clearness and power Paul outlined before Agrippa the leading events connected with the life of Christ on earth. He testified that the Messiah of prophecy had already appeared in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He showed how the Old Testament Scriptures had declared that the Messiah was to appear as a man among men, and how in the life of Jesus had been fulfilled every specification outlined by Moses and the prophets. For the purpose of redeeming a lost world, the divine Son of God had endured the cross, despising the shame, and had ascended to heaven triumphant over death and the grave. Paul explained that he had seen Jesus and conversed with him. The Voice had commanded him to proclaim the gospel of a risen Savior, and how could he disobey? In Damascus, in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in the most distant regions, he had borne witness to Jesus the Crucified, exhorting all "to repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance." AA 436-437 (abbreviated)



Deeply affected, Agrippa for the moment lost sight of his surroundings and the dignity of his position. Conscious only of the truths which he had heard, seeing only the humble prisoner standing before him as God's ambassador, he answered involuntarily, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." AA 438

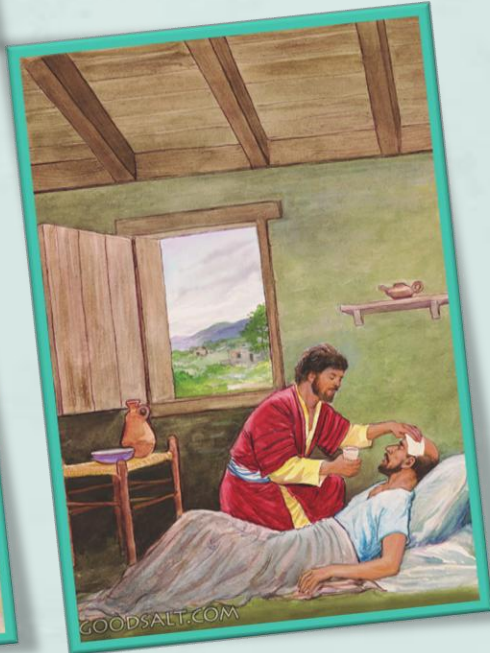
-  Do your mission with true courtesy and persuasive eloquence.
-  It speaks of how the divine Son of God suffered on the cross, despising shame, and ascended into heaven triumphant from death and the grave, and how He is now interceding and judging.
-  Your mission is to impart knowledge and make a call to respond positively.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. (2 Corintios 2:14)

Acts 28:1-10

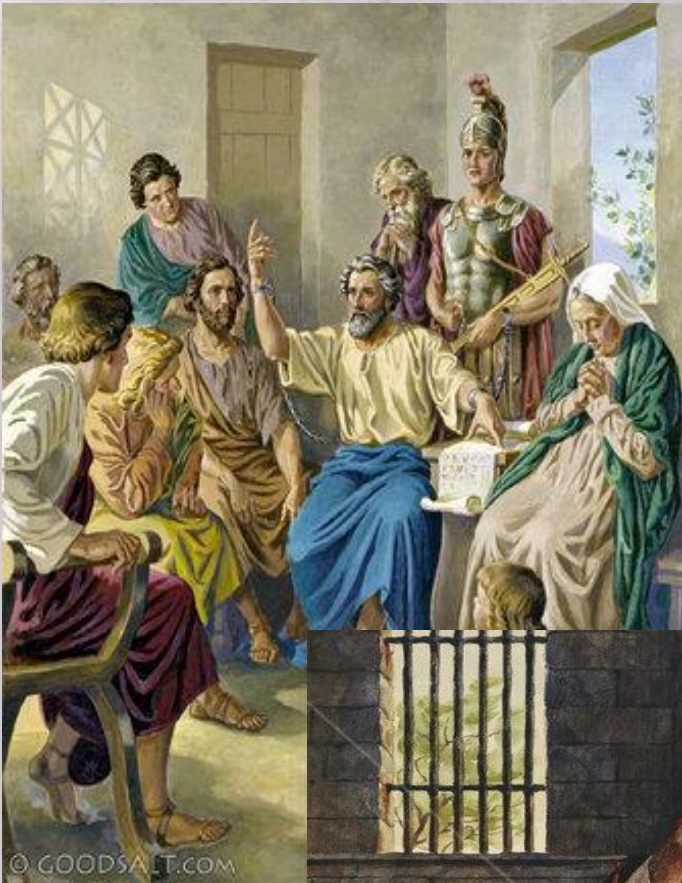
Using the Gift of Healing in Mission

[Paul and those on the ship were shipwrecked] ...when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god. In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed: Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary. (Acts 28:1-10)



- God will heal you or keep you from evil when it serves as a witness to others.
- Just as Paul used the gift of healing, use the gifts God has given you.

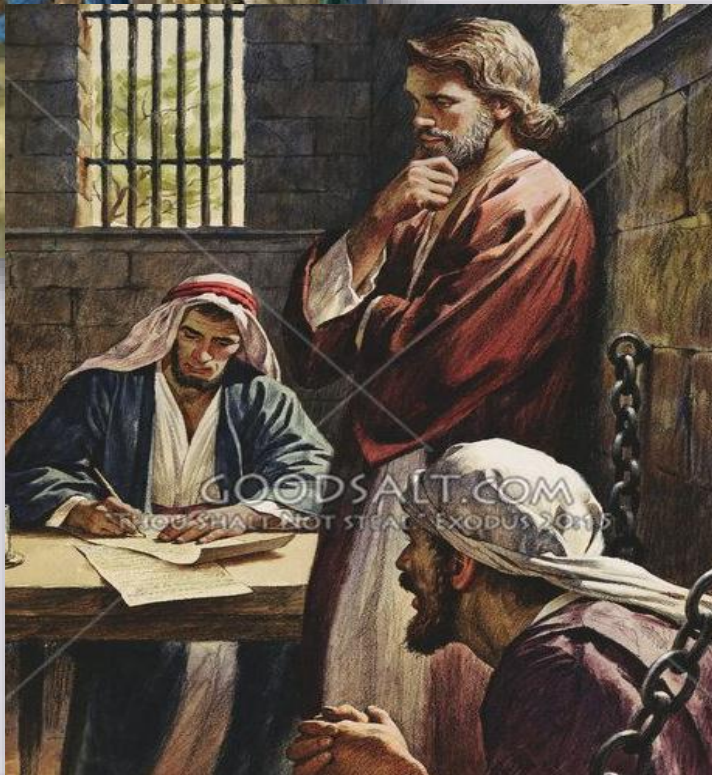
**For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
(1 Corinthians 12:8-10)**



Acts 28:11-31

Simultaneous missions in the waiting period: at home and by letter

They continued their journey, and when they reached Rome, the centurion handed over the prisoners to the military prefect. But Paul was allowed to live apart, with a soldier to guard him. Three days later, Paul summoned the rulers of the Jews, and explained to them that for the hope of Israel he was bound with this chain. Then they told him that they did not know anything about what they were accusing him of, but that they would like to hear it. And when he had appointed them one day, many came to him at the inn, to whom he declared and testified to them the kingdom of God from morning until evening, persuading them of Jesus, both by the law of Moses and by the prophets. And some agreed to what was being said, but others did not believe. Paul said to them, "Know therefore that this salvation of God is sent to the Gentiles; and they will hear." The Jews went away, having a great argument with each other. And Paul stayed two whole years in a rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ, openly and without hindrance. While in prison he also wrote letters to various churches and to Philemon.



➡ No matter where you are, talk about Jesus. Do it orally, by letter, through social networks, etc. Any means are useful for the mission.

➡ Live Jesus; enjoy Jesus; that your daily life is impregnated with Him.

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. (2 Timothy 4:2)

**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
(Philippians 1:21)**

Acts of the Apostles 388-394

Mission for the Powerful: Nero



Nero later acquitted the accused. Paul was freed from his chains and in complete freedom... This last period of freedom he diligently used to work among the churches...

On his second trip to Rome he was locked up in a gloomy dungeon, where he was to remain until the end of his career. Nero called him to trial. The Jews raised against Paul the old accusations of sedition and heresy; and both Jews and Romans blamed him for having instigated the burning of the city. Paul listened to these charges with unflappable serenity.

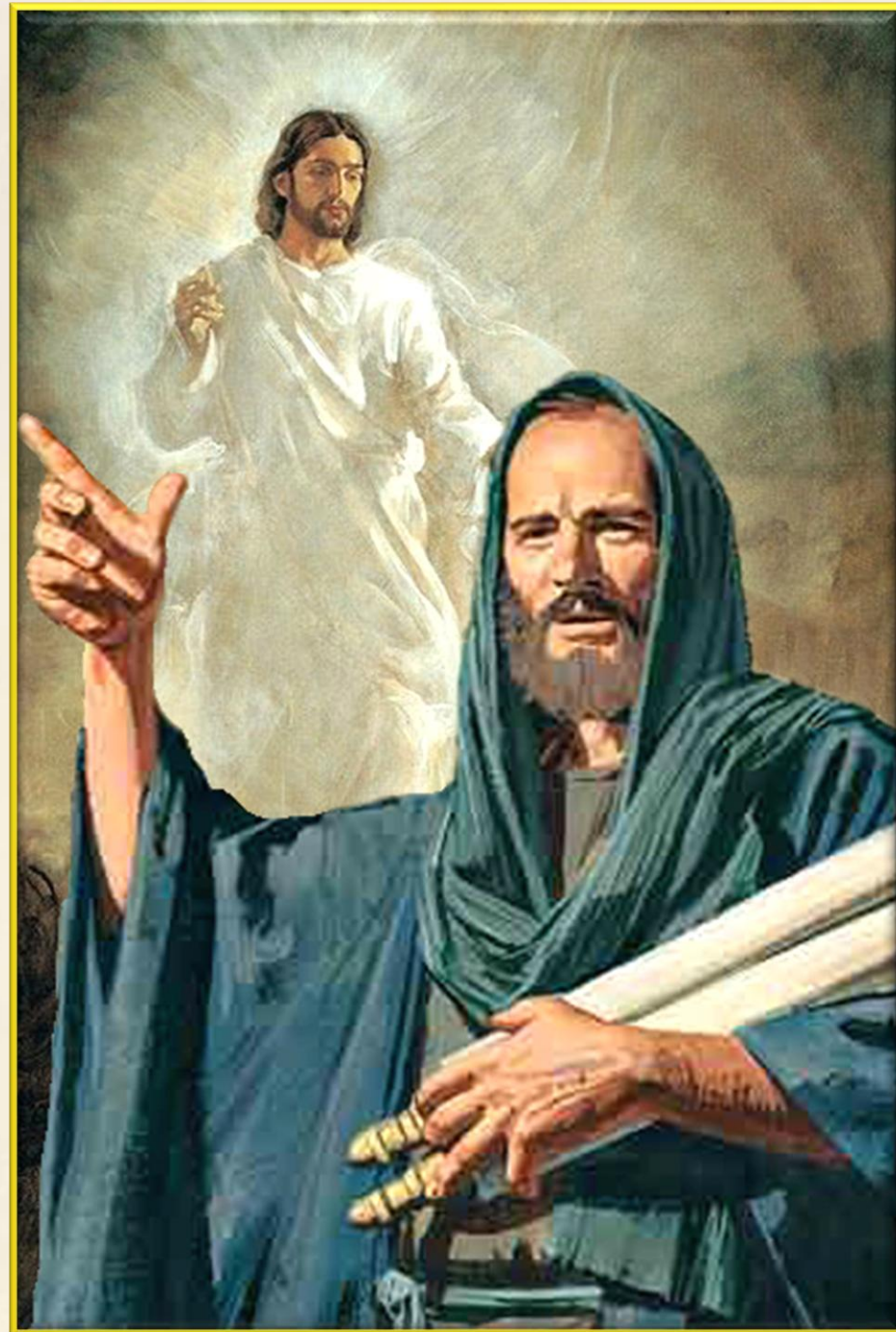
The judges and the audience looked at him in surprise. They had witnessed many trials and observed many criminals; but they had never seen a defendant who denoted such holy tranquility as the one before them. The shrewd gaze of the judges, accustomed to reading the countenances of the accused, searched in vain on Paul's face for any proof of guilt. When he was given the floor to speak in self-defense, everyone listened with keen interest.



Once more Paul has an opportunity to uplift before a wondering multitude the banner of the cross. As he gazes upon the throng before him,—Jews, Greeks, Romans, with strangers from many lands,—his soul is stirred with an intense desire for their salvation. He loses sight of the occasion, of the perils surrounding him, of the terrible fate that seems so near. He sees only Jesus, the Intercessor, pleading before God in behalf of sinful men. With more than human eloquence and power, Paul presents the truths of the gospel. He points his hearers to the sacrifice made for the fallen race. He declares that an infinite price has been paid for man's redemption. Provision has been made for them to share the throne of God. By angel messengers, earth is connected with heaven, and all the deeds of men, whether good or evil, are open to the eye of Infinite Justice.

Thus pleads the advocate of truth. Faithful among the faithless, loyal among the disloyal, he stands as God's representative, and his voice is as a voice from heaven. There is no fear, no sadness, no discouragement in word or look. Strong in a consciousness of innocence, clothed in the panoply of truth, he rejoices that he is a son of God. His words are as a shout of victory above the roar of battle. He declares the cause to which he has devoted his life, to be the only cause that can never fail. Though he may perish, the gospel will not perish. God lives, and His truth will triumph.

Many who that day looked upon him "saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." Acts 6:15. AA 494-495





During Paul's final trial before Nero, the emperor had been so strongly impressed with the force of the apostle's words that he deferred the decision of the case, neither acquitting nor condemning the accused servant of God. But the emperor's malice against Paul soon returned. Exasperated by his inability to check the spread of the Christian religion, even in the imperial household, he determined that as soon as a plausible pretext could be found, the apostle should be put to death. Not long afterward Nero pronounced the decision that condemned Paul to a martyr's death. Inasmuch as a Roman citizen could not be subjected to torture, he was sentenced to be beheaded. Paul was taken in a private manner to the place of execution. Few spectators were allowed to be present; for his persecutors, alarmed at the extent of his influence, feared that converts might be won to Christianity by the scenes of his death. But even the hardened soldiers who attended him listened to his words and with amazement saw him cheerful and even joyous in the prospect of death. To some who witnessed his martyrdom, his spirit of forgiveness toward his murderers and his unwavering confidence in Christ till the last, proved a savor of life unto life. More than one accepted the Saviour whom Paul preached, and ere long fearlessly sealed their faith with their blood.



Keep fulfilling God's mission until the end of your life.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (2 Timothy 2:1-3)

The true minister of God will not shun hardship or responsibility. From the Source that never fails those who sincerely seek for divine power, he draws strength that enables him to meet and overcome temptation, and to perform the duties that God places upon him. The nature of the grace that he receives, enlarges his capacity to know God and His Son. His soul goes out in longing desire to do acceptable service for the Master. And as he advances in the Christian pathway he becomes "strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." This grace enables him to be a faithful witness of the things that he has heard. He does not despise or neglect the knowledge that he has received from God, but commits this knowledge to faithful men, who in their turn teach others. AA 501