

Volume

2

MINISTERING LIKE JESUS

A Journey with the Apostles
through the Book of Acts

Believers' Ministry
Training Guide

BELIEVERS' MINISTRY TRAINING GUIDE

Ministering Like Jesus –

A Journey with the Apostles through the Book of Acts

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MINISTERING LIKE JESUS

A JOURNEY WITH THE APOSTLES THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

Ministering Like Jesus is written as a practical guide to examining how the early Christians ministered to those around them in accordance with Jesus' commission to "go and make disciples." We will take a journey through much of the *Acts of the Apostles* and pay careful attention to what Peter, Paul and others did and said. . .how they handled the obstacles they faced. . .how they worked the miracles of Jesus everywhere they went.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same wisdom and anointing He imparted to the believers in the early church can be yours today.



KEY

Jesus said that His disciples (and that means us today, too) would need the experience of the Holy Spirit baptism to effectively witness and demonstrate the power of His Holy Spirit as they preached, taught and healed the multitudes of lost and hurting people.

Journey through Scripture

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

(Acts 1:4-5, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Before Jesus formally entered into His ministry upon the earth, his cousin, John the Baptist, identified Him as the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- Here Jesus is telling His disciples not to leave Jerusalem, not to go forth into their ministry until they are baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- This baptism would give them the power to be witnesses for Jesus unto the ends of the earth.
- This baptism would give them the power to do the same miracles Jesus did: Healing the sick, casting out devils and raising the dead!

Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?



KEY

There is power
in corporate
prayer and
agreement.

Journey through Scripture

*Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

(Acts 1:12-14, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Preceding the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and disciples, the timing and environment had to be right.
- The Father had an appointed time for “pouring out the Holy Spirit upon all flesh. . .” as it had been earlier prophesied in the book of Joel.
- There was unity among the believers. They were together in agreement.
- There was constant prayer going up to heaven’s throne room.
- Your prayer alone is effective, but corporate prayer with other believers is even more powerful.
- Reading down further in Acts, chapter one, verses 16-26 tell how Peter stood up and read from what we now call the Old Testament about the final end of Judas, the betrayer. It was prophesied that Judas would be replaced by another who had been with the disciples from the beginning to the end of Jesus’ ministry upon the earth. The disciples selected two men, Justus and Matthias, and drew lots to see which one the Lord would pick to be numbered among the twelve disciples. Matthias was chosen.
- The previous point shows how important it is to first know the Word of God and then to obey it. . .to put into action the instructions God gives us. Only then, can the Lord trust us with the power that comes from His Holy Spirit.

Have you obeyed the last instruction God gave you?



KEY

Be open to new, unexpected things of the Spirit.



KEY

Peter preached by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hearts were convicted; people believed his message; and 3,000 were added to the Church on the Day of Pentecost.



KEY

GET PEOPLE SAVED FIRST BEFORE MINISTERING TO THEM IF POSSIBLE! God's mercy and grace will heal unbelievers too, but their unrepentant sin is likely to get them back into the same bad situation again.

Journey through Scripture

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)

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.
(Acts 2:17-18, NKJV)

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—
(Acts 2:22, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Verses 1-4 describe what happened on the Day of Pentecost when the Father's promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled.
- Verses 17-18 refer to the prophecy spoken in the book of Joel. Who will minister today – in the end times? Every person upon whom God's Spirit is poured out: Sons and daughters, old men, young men.
- Verse 22 tells us how God validated His Son through the miracles, signs and wonders Jesus did in the midst of the Jews and gentiles – the leaders and common folk.

Do you want God's Spirit to manifest through you the demonstration of miracles, signs and wonders?



KEY

What people ask for is not always their greatest need.

Miracle #1

In the Name of Jesus

Journey through Scripture

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

(Acts 3:1-8, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Again, here in verse 1, we see that Jesus' apostles were diligent in prayer as they were going into the temple at the regular hour of prayer.
- Note: As you pray in compassion for the needs of others as a first priority, ask God for the power of the Holy Spirit to minister to those needs.
- The man in this story was looking for money. He never dreamed he could actually walk since he had not ever done so. Sometimes, what people say they need or ask you to pray for isn't always their real or greatest need. We need to be led by the Holy Spirit to discern the true need or root of the problem.
- Peter and John gave this man something far greater than a little bit of change or even a great amount of money. They lifted up not only his body, but also his faith to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- This man was healed by faith (first, the apostles; later his own) in the Name of Jesus.
- Jesus has given you today the right and authority to use His Name to heal the sick and set the captives free!

Are you ready to be used whenever God presents you with an opportunity to minister to someone?



KEY
An intimate and ongoing relationship with Jesus brings power and boldness.



KEY
We must not just do our own thing, but cooperate with the Holy Spirit.



KEY
Always give glory to God for every good work! Never accept the praises of men.

Journey through Scripture

...let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

(Acts 4:10, NKJV)

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

(Acts 4:13, NKJV)

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 boldness.

(Acts 4:29-31, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Peter and John wanted to be sure that people would not look at them as if they had done something great by their own power, so they proclaimed clearly that the man had been made whole and healed by the Name of Jesus.
- The Jewish leaders could not say anything against Peter and John because clearly a notable miracle had been done. And when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, they were amazed, recognizing that they were different because of the time they had spent with Jesus. Peter and John could be bold because they knew that Jesus had personally commissioned them to go forth and make disciples and that He was still with them through the Holy Spirit.
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a one-time outpouring. After the apostles and all of the disciples prayed for greater boldness and that Jesus would perform more miracles through them, they received a second infilling of the Holy Spirit. We must ask God again and again for a fresh touch from the Holy Spirit!

Ask God to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit and to use you as His instrument to perform miracles!



KEY

It is always God's will to heal. Jesus, nor His disciples, ever turned anyone away or refused to heal them.



KEY

It is important to examine ourselves daily and repent of anything that is not pleasing to God.

Miracles #2
(multiple miracles)

Journey through Scripture

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. (The same thing then happened to his wife.)

(Acts 5:1-6, NKJV)

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

(Acts 5:12-16, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- As chapter five opens, we see a husband and wife who lied to the apostles and both came to a bitter end of death. This is a severe warning to believers. We cannot lie or hide our sin and expect to walk in the Spirit's power to minister.
- The apostles did many miracles, signs and wonders in Jesus' Name, by laying on of hands and other points of contact, such as Peter's shadow. All who believed were healed!
- Notice that many were saved as they witnessed these miracles. Miracles confirm the word that is preached (Mark 16:20)

Remember that God is always willing to heal! No disease or bondage is too hard for Him to fix.



KEY

Don't get distracted with "busyness" or many earthly pursuits. Keep focused on prayer and God's Word.

*Miracles #3
Preaching the Word*



KEY

Get people filled with the Holy Spirit.

Journey through Scripture

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

(Acts 6:3-4, NKJV)

(Chapters 6 and 7 continue with the testimony of Stephen.)

And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

(Acts 8:6-7, NKJV)

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 8:14-17, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- The apostles were getting so busy trying to take care of a myriad of daily tasks that it was interfering with the ministry Jesus had called them to perform. This is a valuable lesson for us. While it is important to accomplish our responsibilities, sometimes we add to what's really important a bunch of unnecessary tasks or just meaningless pleasure activities (like watching TV or being on Facebook or talking or texting on our phone excessively). Examine your schedule and your priorities and ask the Holy Spirit to help you line them up with God's plans and purposes.
- Philip was just an ordinary believer, but he took God at His Word that he could share the good news of Christ and perform miracles in His Name. Philip's faith and faithfulness paid off – many were healed and unclean spirits were cast out.
- Ask believers if they have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and if not, instruct and pray for them to receive.

Do you want to be used by God more than you want to spend your time in frivolous activities?

Miracle #4
Laying on of hands

Miracle #5
*“Jesus the Christ
heals you!”*

Miracle #6
Spoke a word of faith



KEY

We must eradicate fear and unbelief from our own minds. Peter did not merely comfort these in their misery but rather boldly spoke the end result: “Arise!”

Journey through Scripture

And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.
(Acts 9:17-18, NKJV)

There (Peter) found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately.
(Acts 9:33-34, NKJV)

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. . . When (Peter) had come, they brought him to the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping. . . But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.
(Acts 9:36-37, 39-41, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Aeneas laid hands on Saul, now called Paul, who was healed of blindness and received the Holy Spirit simultaneously. It is important to note that Aeneas obeyed Christ even though he was fearful and initially objected to the request Jesus made of him.
- Peter healed a paralyzed man and then raised a woman from the dead! In both instances, he spoke a faith command that called forth the desired results: Healing and resurrection life.
- Jesus did not limit what we as believers can do through His Name and Spirit – and our faith – even to raising the dead!

Can you believe that Jesus will heal the sick and even raise the dead through you?



KEY

Don't think of anyone as inferior or not worth your time and love. God loves all people the same.



KEY

God may take you out of your comfort zone when He calls you to minister. Be adaptable and willing to obey.

Journey through Scripture

(Summary, not exact Scripture): Cornelius, a Roman centurion, was told by an angel to send for Peter, who would tell him what he must do. As the Centurion's servants approached where Peter was staying, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. He became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened and a great sheet descending to him. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. God said to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." And told him, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." From this vision, Peter learned that he should not call any man unclean and headed for Cornelius' house, where all of his family and friends had gathered. Peter shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them and immediately all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter and the Jewish brothers with him were amazed that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the gentiles, too. (from Acts, chapter 10)

Points to Remember. . .

- You must be sensitive to God's voice even when He doesn't speak what you are expecting to hear.
- Sometimes, God will take us out of our "comfort zone" to minister to those we may not even want to be around.
- He may ask you to say or do something you would not normally consider saying or doing. (Of course, it should agree with the precepts of the Bible and not be anything the Bible calls sin.)
- As in this case Peter, a Jew, ministered to gentiles contrary to Jewish law and his own understanding.
- Just as Peter and his Jewish companions learned in their day, we must also understand that God is no respecter of persons. All are equal in value in His sight.
- We must not call anyone unclean, unworthy, or in any way inferior. (This is not to say that we accept sin as being all right.)
- Be willing and obedient when what God calls you to do may not be what you want to do.

God wants us to love all people just as He does!



KEY

It is a serious thing to prophesy. We must not speak our words out carelessly or with impure motives.



KEY

When God uses us, those who are helped may praise us. We must turn their focus and thanksgiving to God.

Journey through Scripture

And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.
(Acts 11:27-28, NKJV)

So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.
(Acts 12:21-23, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Acts 11:27-28 shows an example of a prophet named Agabus prophesying a great famine that would devastate the area. He also prophesies later on in chapter 21, warning Paul about the dangers and hardships he would face on his journey to Jerusalem.
- God used Agabus to alert the believers of the coming need for food; therefore, causing them to do a good deed; in this case to bring relief to their brothers and sisters in Judea.
- Prophecy comes forth from the Holy Spirit, not out of our own intellect, desires or fears. We must guard against pride and presumption.
- True prophesies will come to pass (Jeremiah 28:9). In the Old Testament, false prophets were killed. Thank God, in the New Covenant, we have Jesus, whose blood is enough to cover sin, and we can be forgiven rather than killed, if we make a mistake.
- Nevertheless, we must take care to be sure that we have heard from God when we prophesy and that the prophecy agrees with what the Bible says.
- It is good to ask the Holy Spirit for His gifts (1 Corinthians 12). We must always give the glory to God for every manifestation.

You must walk closely with God and listen carefully to His Holy Spirit in order to prophesy.



KEY

Prophets and teachers meet together to:
- Worship
- Fast
- Attune their ears to hear the voice of God's Spirit.



KEY

When we minister like Jesus, we must not rely on our own human desires or intellect but only on what we hear from the Holy Spirit.



KEY

Obey the Holy Spirit, which you may hear directly in your heart, through God's Word, or from the counsel of your spiritual leaders or other godly believers.

Journey through Scripture

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

(Acts 13:1-4, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- In verse 2, the Holy Spirit spoke, calling two of the prophets/teachers – Barnabus and Saul – to a special work. Notice that it is God who calls us to a ministry, to a work for Him, or even to a local church.
- Verse 3 shows that Barnabus and Saul had the approval and prayer support of the church. They were not acting as lone rangers or in opposition to spiritual leadership.
- Verse 4 indicates that Barnabus and Saul received specific instructions about their destination, not just a vague impression about where they were supposed to go to minister.
- There are still prophets in the Church today though many believers may not be called to the office of prophet. (See the Ephesians 4:11 five-fold ministry list.) However when the need arises, the Holy Spirit sovereignly gives gifts to believers to minister in spiritual ways. (See the 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 gifts of the Spirit list.) These spiritual gifts are always given not for our own good but for the profit of others.
- Zechariah 4:6 exhorts us that we should not operate by (human) power or might but by (God's) Spirit. In John 8:28-29 Jesus says, ". . . I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me." He is our example!

Do you aspire to prophesy and be used of God in the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, too?



KEY

When you minister in the Holy Spirit, the devil will try to use people against you.



KEY

Be ready for unexpected opportunities to share your faith and demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit.

Journey through Scripture

Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

(Acts 13:6-11, NKJV)

And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."

(Acts 13:15, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Because Elymus, the sorcerer, tried to keep the proconsul from believing Paul's message, he was struck blind so that he could not accomplish his (and the devil's) evil intent. And, the proconsul was amazed when he saw what happened and as a result, he believed in Jesus.
- This is an example of both the word of knowledge and prophecy spoken by Paul.
- When you minister in the Spirit, you will face opposition from people and evil spirits. A good daily prayer is the one modeled by our Lord in Matthew 6:10-13, especially verse 13 which says, "Deliver us from the evil one." Also, Ephesians 6 lists the spiritual armor we need to stand against wicked powers and principalities in spiritual warfare.
- In Verse 15 shown above, Paul was given an unexpected opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As you minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will face opposition and spiritual attacks!



KEY

Preach God's grace, love and forgiveness through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Miracle #7

Discerned man's faith



KEY

Do not become discouraged when others reject you. God will either change them by His Spirit or open other opportunities for you to minister to those who will receive.

Journey through Scripture

Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And they were preaching the gospel there.

(Acts 14:3-7, NKJV)

And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

(Acts 14:8-10, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Paul and Barnabus preached about the grace of the Lord and God proved that their message was true by performing miracles through them.
- Opposition will arise by those who are in bondage themselves or want to keep others in bondage to sin and dependence on the law for self-righteousness.
- When you are rejected do not argue or try to force your opinion. If the opportunity ends or the door closes, know that God will open another and will prepare the way, hearts of the people, etc.
- A crippled man received faith as he listened to Paul preach. Hearing the Word of God produces faith (Romans 10:17). Always be sure to share the related Scriptures when you are ministering to build the faith of the person for whom you are praying.
- Paul perceived that the man had faith to be healed. Be sure to listen for revelation from the Holy Spirit as you minister. Paul demonstrated the gift of "discerning of spirits" (1 Corinthians 12:10).

The Holy Spirit will lead you in what to say and do.



KEY

Follow up with those you have led to Christ or for whom you have prayed or ministered.



KEY

Take time to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ. Help and minister to them and allow them to help and minister to you. God works through the community of believers.

Journey through Scripture

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

(Acts 14:21-22, NKJV)

From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

(Acts 14:26-28, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Paul and Barnabus returned to some of the cities where they had made disciples to encourage and strengthen the believers in their faith. It wasn't enough to just initially win them to Christ and minister to their needs once; the apostles returned to follow up on these new converts.
- Remember to follow up on those whom you've led to the Lord or for whom you have prayed for healing or other needs. Your sincere love will do much to keep them strong in faith. There may also be a need for further teaching or ministry to help them grow or overcome difficulties they may be experiencing.
- Paul and Barnabus had been sent out by the church at Antioch and have now returned to give them a report of their ministry accomplishments. They were accountable to church leadership and I'm sure grateful for their prayers and support.
- Though we know it is God who makes the way, He uses our brothers and sisters in the Lord to help with prayer, counsel, provision and fulfillment of spiritual and practical needs.
- Paul and Barnabus took time out to spend with the believers at the Antioch church. We need to be refreshed both in our fellowship with God and in the community of believers.

Follow up with those you've led to Christ or to whom you have ministered healing, deliverance, etc.



KEY

But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient. . .

(2 Timothy 2:23-24, NKJV)

Journey through Scripture

Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing." Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. . .

(Acts 15:36-39, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Sometimes, opposition does not come from our "enemies" or those who do not understand, but from within our own group.
- Paul and Barnabus had a disagreement concerning another believer that was so strong they parted ways. Even great men of God can be very "human" and act contrary to God's ways. We can be encouraged to know that we do not have to be "perfect" to be accepted by God and others or to minister in God's power. God can still use us even when we've messed up!
- We are all different in our backgrounds, personalities and ideas. This sometimes leads to disagreement between even the best of friends or in our church family. This is called strife.
- Strife is sin and it can be deadly in the church, in our families, on the job or elsewhere.
- When strife rears its ugly head on the scene, be quick to forgive and make every attempt to be reconciled to your brothers and sisters in the Lord, your family, friends or others. Romans 12:18 says, *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men* (NKJV).
- Strife is never good, but God can and does work things together for good when we love Him, trust Him and serve Him (Romans 8:28). In the separation of Paul and Barnabus, the Gospel was spread further, and eventually Paul was reconciled to John Mark, whom he thought was irresponsible in this situation.

*Be alert to spot strife and cut it off immediately.
Causing strife is one of Satan's primary strategies.*



KEY

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

(1 John 4:1-3, NKJV)

Journey through Scripture

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

(Acts 16:6-8, NKJV)

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

(Acts 16:9-10, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- A particular direction or plan may seem like a good idea to us, but always pray and seek God's direction in all of your plans. It may be a "good" idea or plan, but not a "God" idea or plan.
- Here is wise advise from Psalm 37:5 (NKJV):
Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.
- And from Proverbs 16:3 (NKJV):
Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established.
- If the Holy Spirit overrides your plans or says "no" to your agenda, go His way, do His thing, or speak the words He puts in your mouth. God's way will always work out better:
"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-10, NKJV)
- God sometimes speaks to us through visions and dreams, which may be literal or symbolic. Take these seriously; don't just ignore them. Pray about them until God's meaning becomes clear. Then obey, whatever He is showing you to do.

Commit your works to the Lord and acknowledge God in all of your ways. He will direct your path.



KEY

Paul and the other apostles and disciples followed in the footsteps of Jesus:

... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

(Acts 10:38, NKJV)

Miracle #8
Cast out evil spirit



KEY

Just as God empowered Paul to cast out evil spirits, we have the same authority in the church today over the devil.

Journey through Scripture

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

(Acts 16:16-18, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Paul cast a demon out of a fortune-telling, slave girl. You may wonder what was wrong with what she said and why it annoyed Paul when she acknowledged that Paul and his group belonged to God and were proclaiming how to be saved. At first glance, this appears good because it is a true statement. However, the source of her words was an evil spirit. 2 Corinthians 11:14 tells us that Satan can turn himself into an "angel of light" and therefore make evil appear to be good.
- Paul issued a command in the Name of Jesus to the devil to come out of the girl. This illustrates the authority Jesus has given you and me as believers to command evil spirits to go and they must leave. This includes sickness, bondage and other conditions that are not God's will.
- We cannot judge God by our own human feelings, symptoms and experiences. Rather, we must judge our own human feelings, symptoms and experiences according to God's Word, the Bible. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God sometimes heals and sometimes does not heal. Not one time did Jesus refuse to heal someone or cast a devil out of an afflicted one. Therefore, we must conclude that it is always God's will to heal and set the captives free (Matthew 8:2).
- We must follow the example of Jesus and His apostles and disciples after Him, using the authority and power He gave us and following His plan, pattern and promises of healing, deliverance and restoration that we see in God's Word.

Jesus has given believers today the same authority and power that the early disciples walked in.



KEY
God's Word promises "household salvation" in Acts 16:31. This is a good Scripture to minister to those who are concerned about the salvation of their loved ones.



KEY
Joyful praise and prayer will set the captives free! God inhabits our praise. Singing with our hearts to the Lord will attract His anointing to minister.

Journey through Scripture

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

(Acts 16:25-26, NKJV)

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

(Acts 16:30-32, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Paul and Silas had been beaten severely and thrown into prison where their feet were securely fastened to stocks. Yet in this horrible, probably dirty, possible rat-infested, dungeon-like place, Paul and Silas could sing and pray. You and I will not likely experience such extreme circumstances, but what an example of dedication to Jesus, joy and peace in the face of suffering. Paul and Silas were truly dead to self – their own needs, comforts and "rights." When we are able to set aside "self" to focus on God's priorities, then our ministries will be truly successful.
- The apostles' praise and prayer set the captives free! Not only did the chains break off and the doors open for Paul and Silas, but all of the other prisoners were loosed from their chains, too. True praise and worship will produce an environment where God is present to heal, deliver and restore lives. Take time for worship in your private devotional time and with others corporately.
- Encourage those you pray with for the salvation of loved ones with God's promise of "household salvation" in Acts 16:31 (Acts 18:8, too) and in Joshua 24:15: "*But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*" (NKJV)

Allow plenty of time for sincere praise and worship and you will begin to see miracles unfold.



KEY

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you. . . that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures . . .

(1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4, NKJV)



KEY

Before praying, be sure to amply share specific Scriptures from the Bible that show God's love, provision, healing power, captives set free, or other promises in the Word that relate to the person's need.

Journey through Scripture

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

(Acts 17:11-12, NKJV)

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men 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:

(Acts 17:22-23, NKJV)

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 17:30-31, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Paul had arrived in Berea after being largely rejected in Thessalonica and found the Bereans much more open. Paul convinced them of the truth of his message through the Scriptures, and many believed. As you minister, use your Bible! Share verses that show healing, freedom, provision. . . whatever relates to the need of the person. This will build faith to receive the miracle they are desiring (Romans 10:17).
- When sharing the Gospel or teaching about healing, don't be judgmental or quick to criticize but show respect (though not necessarily agreement) for their viewpoint. Relate to their experience and understanding as God gives you wisdom.
- But, don't water down the Gospel or truth of God's promises. Point out the need for repentance when appropriate. Jesus, John the Baptist, and the apostles all preached repentance and the kingdom of God. Then, miracles, signs and wonders followed.

God's Word builds faith. Show love and respect, but stick to the Gospel and God's wonderful promises.



KEY

Know God's timing – when to wait, when to speak or not speak, and when to move forward into the things He has prepared for you.



KEY

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

(John 4:34-35, NKJV)

Journey through Scripture

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”

(Acts 18:9-10, NKJV)

When they asked (Paul) to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, but took leave of them, saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing. . .”

(Acts 18:20-21, NKJV)

(Apollos) had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord. . .

(Acts 18:25, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Don't be fearful – don't hold back in silence. Boldly speak out about Jesus because He is with you. How do you become bold? By spending time with Jesus (Acts 4:13); and through obedience (Acts 5:32).
- God's timing is all important! Continual communion with the Holy Spirit will reveal God's timing and direction to you. Do not get ahead or fall behind in His plan. Stay in step with Him. Psalm 37:23 says: *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way* (NKJV).
- A “good” thing is not always a “God” thing. Do not be pressured or flattered by people to get involved with what may not be a part of God's plan or purposes for you.
- Apollos is a good example to us as verse 25 describes him as “fervent in spirit.” Be enthusiastic – full of love, joy and peace when you minister. As God's ministering servants, we need to know and be able to wield God's Word, accurately teaching the ways and truths of the Lord. 2 Timothy 2:15 confirms this: *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth* (NKJV).

God's timing is everything. Wait on Him patiently, but be prepared and ready for when He calls you!



KEY

Minister the baptism of the Holy Spirit to believers who have not yet received it.



KEY

Do not try to force people to receive either the Holy Spirit baptism or healing if they reject these gifts of God. Let God work in their hearts, and you move on to others.

Miracles #9
Point of contact

Journey through Scripture

(Paul) said to (the disciples), “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

(Acts 19:2-6, NKJV)

And (Paul) went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

(Acts 19:8-9, NKJV)

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 19:11-12, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- Minister the baptism of the Holy Spirit to those believers who have not yet experienced it. Instruct them with the Scripture and pray for them to receive. Acts 19:2-6 above and the story of Cornelius and his family in Acts 10, and Romans 8:26-27 are good Scriptures to share.
- If people oppose or reject you, don’t argue or keep trying to slam your point across to them. Bless them and move on to those whose hearts are open as Paul did in these Scriptures.
- Cloths that had touched Paul and were placed on sick people brought healing and deliverance from evil spirits. These served as a point of contact for people to build their faith and also carried the Holy Spirit anointing that flowed from Paul’s body.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience subsequent to salvation that derives great benefits.



KEY

God's top priority for His servants is their personal relationship with Him. This must be your priority as well if you aspire to minister in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.



KEY

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. . .

(Hebrews 12:1, NKJV)

Journey through Scripture

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

(Acts 19:13-20, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- You must know Jesus personally and remain in fellowship with Him to have power to do miracles. John 15:4 says it this way: *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.* (NKJV)
- If you are out of God's will or have unrepentant sin in your life and try to exercise God's power, most likely you will experience no results at best or disastrous results at worst.
- The outcome of this story (above) shows the importance of walking in the fear of God, confessing and forsaking any sin in our lives.
- There is no place for magic, witchcraft, sorcery or other demonic practices in the life of a believer, especially one that wants to operate in God's power. Rebellion also fits in this category. When ministering to someone who has been involved with the occult, warn them that they should renounce any demonic activity, remove any occultic objects from their environment, and disconnect from demonic soul ties.

Stay close to Jesus; examine yourself for sin and repent before you attempt to minister deliverance.

Miracle #10
Raising the dead



KEY
Proclaim the whole counsel of God. Don't give up if you do not see the results you expected. Be patient, trust in God and serve Christ faithfully.

Journey through Scripture

And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."

(Acts 20:9-10, NKJV)

And when they had come to (Paul), he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Acts 20:18-21, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- The anointing of God was so strong on Paul that when a young man fell out of the window to his death, Paul rushed downstairs, laid on him and embraced him. The young man came back to life and all of the people were comforted.
- Paul was bold to speak all that the Holy Spirit had given him. Some things we can learn from Paul include:

Be humble.

Sincerely care about the people to whom you minister.

Don't seek popularity or fear what people may say or do.

Don't give up in spite of trials. . .

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV)

Be bold in faith that God will use you to heal the sick, set the captives free, and even raise the dead!



KEY

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

(Ephesians 2:8-10, NKJV)

Journey through Scripture

But none of these things move me; nor do I (Paul) 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 20:24, NKJV)

“So now, brethren, I (Paul) commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

(Acts 20:32, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- As ministers, we must die to self, to our carnal desires, worldly ambitions and wrong motives. Our perspective and priority should be to do the work God gives us. . .to share the good news of His love with others. We know God’s Word is confirmed by miracles, signs and wonders. (Mark 16:20)
- God has promised that His Holy Spirit will sovereignly give supernatural gifts to believers who are looking for them (1 Corinthians 12 and 14:1).
- Grace builds up. Legalism and a critical spirit tear down. Grace is not a spineless acceptance of “anything goes” but rather the power to overcome sin and the ability to accomplish God’s assignment. It is also, of course, God’s favor and forgiveness of sin in light of what Christ has done to redeem us.
- Exhibit God’s grace in ministry, but add to this truth.

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. . .

(Proverbs 3:3, NKJV)

. . .but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

(Ephesians 4:15-16, NKJV)

The Holy Spirit will sovereignly give supernatural gifts to believers who are pursuing them.



KEY

Sharing your testimony of salvation, the times the Lord has healed you, brought provision, family reconciliation or other blessings to your life is a great way to minister to others.



KEY

And they overcame (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

(Revelation 12:11, NKJV)

Journey through Scripture

And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

(Acts 21:4, 10-14, NKJV)

So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying. . .

(Acts 21:40, NKJV)

(Chapter 22 continues with Paul's violent persecution and temporary rescue; then in chapter 23, Paul is allowed the opportunity to share his personal testimony of salvation.)

Points to Remember. . .

- This was an incident where prophecy was used as a warning, but did not constitute a change of direction. The Holy Spirit showed Paul through the prophecy in verse 4 and again in vs. 10-11 that much trouble lay ahead of him; yet Paul knew Jesus had called him to go to Jerusalem in spite of the danger and pain that awaited him. Paul would not be deterred in his determination to follow the Lord no matter what the cost.
- Don't back off from what you know to be true. We must not be persuaded to be "politically correct" or try to appease people, but always be ready to share the good news of Jesus Christ in truth and love. Opposition or what appears to be a failure can actually open the door to a bigger audience . . . a bigger opportunity to share your faith like it did for Paul in verse 40.

Prophecy can warn or reveal future circumstances to prepare us for what lies ahead.



KEY

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Colossians 3:2, NKJV)



KEY

Throughout the Book of Acts, we learn that Paul spent a number of years in prison. He used his time wisely. Besides sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all who would listen, including kings, government officials and religious leaders, Paul wrote much of the New Testament.

Journey through Scripture

But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!" And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks. But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

(Acts 23:6-7, 10-11, NKJV)

And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

(Acts 23:12, NKJV)

(Chapter 23 continues with this plot against Paul and how it was exposed so that he could be rescued once again from the Jews. Chapter 24, 25, 26 and others detail Paul's continued trial, the accusations against him, and his subsequent defense.)

Points to Remember. . .

- God gave Paul wisdom and the right thing to say at the right time to the right people. He knew that by what he said about the resurrection, the Jewish leaders would be divided and it would cause such a ruckus that the soldiers would have to rescue him.
- Jesus encouraged Paul. Oh, the difference it makes to know that Jesus is on our side and that we are secure in God's will!
What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31, NKJV)
- Satan will try to plot against you like he did Paul. Listen for God's instruction as He delivers you from the attacks of the devil against you and your ministry.
- Manage your time and use it wisely for the kingdom of God!

Jesus has defeated Satan on the cross. Trust in Him to protect and rescue you.



KEY

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

(James 1:5-6. NKJV)



KEY

A good practice is to read, study and memorize Psalm 91 – the “protection psalm.” There is much in it for you to take by faith for your own life, and to minister to others: healing, life, protection, etc.

Journey through Scripture

And the next day we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care.
(Acts 27:3, NKJV)

(Paul said), “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.” Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.
(Acts 27:10-11, NKJV)

But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. . . And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

(Acts 27:21-25, 44, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- As we open up our Scripture above in verse 3, we see that Paul received favor from the Roman officer who held him in custody. As you serve God and love others, He will show you favor, too!
- Wisdom: Paul warned them not to head out into the sea because it was too dangerous, but those in charge ignored Paul’s plea. We need to ask God for wisdom when we minister and for every situation we encounter.
- Knowledge: The storm grew worse until all looked hopeless. Though shipwreck, loss and death seemed imminent, Paul revealed supernatural knowledge he had received from God through an angel that all of them would be saved.
- Safety and Protection: As long as you are obedient to God’s plan and faithfully doing His work until your assignment on earth is finished, no devil can take you out. God will protect you and bring you to safety.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. He will reveal wisdom and knowledge to you as you minister.

Miracle #11
Supernatural protection

Miracles #12
All were healed!



KEY

Minister to people: It is always God's will to heal! Jesus never refused to heal anyone who came to Him in faith believing He would heal them. Here too, all that came to Paul were healed!



KEY

The Book of Acts ends on an open note because it still continues today. The Church – you and I – are to carry on this same work until Jesus comes!

Journey through Scripture

Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live." But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

(Acts 28:1-5, NKJV)

And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.

(Acts 28:8-9, NKJV)

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

(Acts 28:30-31, NKJV)

Points to Remember. . .

- God again showed favor to Paul and all who travelled with him.
- Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake but no harm came to him.

And (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

(Mark 16:15-18, NKJV)

- Paul prayed and laid hands on the father of the island's chief official and the Lord healed him. When they saw this, the rest of the sick came to Paul and all were healed!

Paul was faithful to God's call. You can be, too!