

The Book of Acts

The book of Acts was written by Luke and is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke. Luke was a physician and historian, who kept detailed records. He accompanied Paul on his later missionary journeys, and it is thought that he joined him in Troas as Acts 16:10 has a shifting of pronouns from “they” to “we” which continues to the end of the book. Luke was the only gentile to write in the New Testament, Luke and Acts.

The book was written sometime after A.D. 60 as we know Paul was imprisoned in Rome around that time and the book ends with Paul in Rome. There is no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem, which happened in A.D. 70 so it was written sometime between A.D 60 & 69.

(Chuck Smith-The Word for Today Bible)

Chapter 1

1. How many days was Jesus seen after His resurrection?
2. In verse 4, the disciples were commanded by Jesus not to depart from Jerusalem, but to “wait for the Promise of the Father”. What promise were they waiting for?
3. After receiving _____ from the Holy Spirit, what were they instructed to do?
4. Verse 11 states this same Jesus will return in like manner. How often have you heard other ways that Christ will return?
5. The disciples, the women, Mary the mother of Jesus and His brothers were “all in one accord in prayer & supplication”. What does it mean to you to “be in one accord”?
6. Peter explains the fall of Judas and quotes Psalm 69:25. The disciples come to an agreement to replace Judas with Matthias. How did they come to the conclusion to pick Matthias?

Chapter 2

1. An exciting moment has taken place; the Holy Spirit has come on the Day of Pentecost. Verse 6 says “everyone heard them speak in his own language.” Verse 13 implies that some people thought they were drunk. Have you ever felt Gods Spirit move you to do something so amazing the world thought you were a bit intoxicated?
2. In Peter’s first sermon, he quotes the prophet Joel 2:28-32. Remember there should always be a scriptural basis for what is happening in our lives by the Holy Spirit. What things do you see here?
3. Peter also points out that the Crucifixion of Jesus was not an accident. His death was the plan of God. Read Psalm 16:8-11
4. According to verse 33, where is Jesus now?
5. The conviction of God moved on the people; what is Peter’s instruction?

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6. The instruction from God brought the most amazing gift from being obedient. How many were saved from this outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
7. They continued “steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Which of these areas is the Lord speaking to you about?

Chapter 3

1. Peter and John became men of prayer, as they learned from Jesus. How much time do you spend seeking the Lord and developing your relationship with Him?
2. Sometimes we feel we need to give monetarily or in some other physical way. Peter and John gave an interesting thing here in verse 6. Is this your first choice in time of need?
3. After this miracle, Peter immediately gives all the credit to the Lord. He disassociates himself from the miracle and points people to Jesus. He preaches what according to verse 19.
4. God sent Jesus to bless you (or to make happy). Is the blessing of God ruling your life?

Chapter 4

1. The Sadducees were “disturbed” that Peter and John were teaching the resurrection of Jesus and had them taken into custody until the next day. Yet how many believed in spite of the Sadducees actions?
2. Again as with Jesus, the religious group of the day, the Sanhedrin, brought Peter in for questioning. Have you ever had to take a stand for Christ?
3. Trials and struggles come our way always. We see 3 important disciplines that Peter and John practiced in verse 24-30, worship, prayer and scripture. Are you including these in your daily routine?
4. Verse 32 through the end of the chapter show an interesting concept for the early church. In what ways is the Lord nudging you? Be obedient and see what blessing the Lord brings into your life!

Chapter 5

1. Hypocrisy, are we sensitive to it? Do we overlook it? God is serious about it. Pretending to be something we are not, lying to ourselves. If there is anything in your life that falls into this category, take time now to lay it before the Lord, confess and repent. God loves you and wants to forgive you and make all things new! Read I Corinthians 5:17
2. In verse 12 we see the phrase “all in one accord” again. Being like-minded with the body of Christ is recurring theme. Is there something about your church that you

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question or don't understand? Take time to call your pastor or staff and search the scriptures. Many times we may believe something that was taught to us in our younger years. It may be good, but not necessarily scriptural.

3. The apostles were put in prison; the Lord set them free and told them to go back. Our natural reaction sometimes is to run away from conflict, yet God told them to go back. Are there things in your life that you are running from? Is Lord prompting you to go back? Pray and seek Him, seek council and be obedient. There might be a miracle awaiting you?
4. Verse 29 is a wow verse! Sometimes we don't obey God because we don't know what He wants us to do. Keep praying, keep studying God's Word, He will speak to you!
5. The Pharisee Gamaliel gives some interesting advice to the council in verse 38-39. How can you apply this advice to situations in your life?

Chapter 6

1. Serving at your church can be a wonderful experience for you and your family. How can you serve the body of believers?
2. Stephen was described as a man full of faith and power. Verse 9 speaks of some people disputing with Stephen and that they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit of God, so they lied to stir up the people. Stephen was serving the Lord (waiting tables); he stood for his faith and was stoned. God has called us no matter what our occupation is. Are you taking a stand for your faith?

Chapter 7

1. Verse 1, the high priest asked, "Are these things so?" What an opportunity to share Jesus! How can you share your faith today?
2. As the stoning was about to begin, Stephen saw Jesus doing what?
3. At whose feet did the witnesses lay their clothes?
4. What was Stephen's final prayer?

Chapter 8

1. What was Saul doing to the early church?
2. Because of the persecution, the church scattered. Yet they continued to do what?
3. Hebrews 7:25 'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.' Simon believed and he was baptized. What was his previous profession?
4. We see in verses 14-16 that receiving the Holy Spirit and baptism are 2 separate experiences. How did Peter and John address this?

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5. Simon is rebuked by Peter for his lack of understanding of his faith in verse 20. What word continues to be a theme throughout the teaching in the early church (verse 22)?
6. The angel of the Lord spoke to Phillip, what was his response?
7. Because of Phillip's obedience, what happened with the Ethiopian Eunuch?

Chapter 9

1. Why was Saul headed to Damascus?
2. Saul's response to the Lord was interesting considering his opposition to Christians. How do you respond when the Lord is calling you to repent?
3. How many days was Saul blind?
4. The Lord spoke to Ananias, what did God ask him to do?
5. In verse 13, this is the first time in scripture that the church is referred to as "saints". Did you know you were a saint?
6. In verse 17, Saul is filled with the Holy Spirit and in verse 18, he is healed then baptized. Verse 20, he starts preaching. Do not think you have to wait to be used by the Lord. What is He tugging on your heart to do?
7. Who took Saul in when he returned to Jerusalem?
8. What was so special about Tabitha?

Chapter 10

1. The Roman centurion Cornelius had some interesting character traits. Being a Christian in a secular world can be tough, list the traits the bible gives us about Cornelius.
2. God spoke and Cornelius responded. How do we respond when the Lord is speaking to us?
3. For a Jew, Gentiles and certain foods were considered "unclean". Peter was being stretched to do something that tradition stated was wrong as the early church taught that Gentiles had to become Jews (proselytize) first before becoming a Christian. Do you have any traditions in your life that may be good, yet not scriptural? What is the Lord speaking to you about your traditions?
4. Peter heeded the vision from the Lord and did something that tradition said was wrong, moreover he speaks the acceptance of God to all (verse 34-35). What does this acceptance speak to you as your walk with God continues?
5. Gentiles receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as Peter is teaching them. Sometimes we feel we need to be in a certain place or doing a certain thing before God can speak

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to us or use us. Ask God to do something in your routine today....”God interrupt me, speak to me, and use me wherever I am, no matter what I am doing.”

Chapter 11

1. Peter is getting grief for going to “uncircumcised men” and eating with them. How does Peter defend himself?
2. How did the Jews in Jerusalem respond to Peter's answer?
3. Barnabas was described as?
4. Barnabas brought Saul back to Antioch and they taught there for a year. This was the first place that people of the church were called _____?

Chapter 12

1. Herod has killed James, the brother of John and has put Peter into prison. As we read on, Peter was delivered from his chains in prison. Here is an interesting example; sometimes the Lord delivers and sometimes He doesn't. Regardless, these 2 men were serving the Lord. This is great insight to how the Lord works. We never know what He is going to do, but we do know He always has a plan and a purpose. Read Romans 8:28. Try to look at your life today from a different perspective; you may gain some great insight?
2. We read in verses 9-11 that this deliverance for Peter was so amazing, he thought he was dreaming. God loves you and wants you to experience Him in amazing ways! Do you know how much he loves you? Read John 3:16-17.
3. What a wonderful story of Rhoda, her excitement overcomes her common sense to open the door and let Peter in. Scripture always gives us insight about God. What characteristic of our Lord are you seeing in this passage?
4. Herod thought that putting the church leadership to death or in prison would stop the growth and please the Jews. We see the sovereignty of God unfolds Herod's plan and removes him. Check out verse 24.
5. Barnabas and Saul returned after had _____ their ministry. How are you doing in the current tasks that the Lord has instructed for you? Are you ready for the next opportunity to serve?

Chapter 13

1. “Ministering to Lord”, sometime we think of ministry as to people, yet in verse 2 Luke tells us that they “ministered to the Lord”. The Lord created us for His glory that through us (the church); He might receive praise, honor and glory. Read Ephesians 1:5-6. How can you minister to the Lord today?

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2. Verses 4-5, they were sent out by the Holy Spirit to preach the word. Sometimes we wonder what God is calling us to do. Did you know that you are called to preach the word? Maybe not as a pastor but as a believer in Christ, we are all called to proclaim the gospel. Read Matthew 28:19.
3. Verses 6-12, we read of an interesting account of Bar-Jesus (Elymas the sorcerer). We read that Elymas withstood them and sought to turn Sergius Paulus away from the faith. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and rebuked him. Sergius was astonished, not at the miracle but at what?
4. Paul's first teaching starts in verses 16-41. What similarities do you see here compared to Peter's first teaching in Acts 2?
5. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, a story all of us can tell. When was the last time you told this story (gospel means good news)?
6. Teaching God's word brought many Gentiles to the Lord (verse 48). The Jews filled with envy; contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the thing Paul spoke (verse 45). Acceptance and rejection. They grew BOLD! Are you growing bold or letting feelings dictate your attitude?
7. What does the last verse of this chapter say about Paul and Barnabas's attitude?

Chapter 14

1. Iconium, the city that becomes divided. **James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways"**. Are there things about your beliefs that are confusing or uncertain? Dig into God's word, call your pastor. God's word is clear. Are you willing to be obedient to God's word?
2. In Lystra, a man is healed. God does a miracle through Paul and Barnabas, but it is misinterpreted by the people. Why do you think they were confused about this miracle?
3. Because of the differences (Jews from Antioch), Paul is stoned, dragged out of the city and left for dead. Doesn't sound like a wonderful Christian life, does it? Paul rises up and he goes to Derbe with Barnabas. THEN RETURNS to Lystra.....what does he do there?
4. Verse 26 says they went back to Antioch. They moaned, groaned and complained about all that had happened to them. NOT....what did they do? What do we do in our trials of life? May we all learn to speak of the good things in our lives, read Philippians 4:8?

Chapter 15

1. A "different" teaching was coming down from Judea, what was this teaching?
2. How was this different teaching handled by the church?

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3. The apostles and elders came together to discuss the matter (verse 6). What was their conclusion and how did they come to their decision? (verses 8-11)
4. Read Psalm 139. God is not far away looking down at us as little beings. What does this chapter speak to you about God's relationship to us?
5. James quotes Amos 9:11-12 confirming the decision of the council. God's word will never contradict itself; God will confirm His word to you with His word.
6. The council also concluded to write to the Gentiles to abstain from 4 things so that it "would be well with them", what were they?
7. We see an argument between 2 leaders in the last verses. Sometimes God allows these disagreements to happen. The end result here was that 2 teams went out to teach instead of 1. What can this teach us about conflict?

Chapter 16

1. Sometimes our "good intentions" lead us down wrong paths. As Paul, Silas and Timothy were headed on their missionary journey; the Holy Spirit stopped them from going to Asia (good intentions). The Holy Spirit then gave Paul a vision as to where He wanted them to go. What was Paul's response to this instruction? What is your response to God's leading when He changes your direction?
2. What happened to Lydia and her household? What was Lydia's profession?
3. Paul and Silas are teaching, a slave girl "proclaiming truth" is rebuked and set free from a demonic spirit. We need to be very careful about what we hear or see in the religious world. Read 1 John 4:1.
4. The owners of this slave girl were quite upset with Paul and Silas, they had them beaten and thrown into prison, verses 20-24. Did you notice that Paul and Silas do not defend themselves? They chose to pray and sing instead of complaining and defending themselves. What does God do for them?
5. Looking at things from God's perspective changes everything. The end result of this situation brought more people into the kingdom. What are we willing to go through that someone might come to know the Lord?
6. The officers and magistrates came to Paul and Silas and asked for them to leave secretly. They knew that what they had done to Paul and Silas was illegal. We sometime do things that we know isn't right. Instead of trying to hide it, confess it before the Lord. God promises to forgive you! **1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** Live in the freedom of the Lord's grace and forgiveness today!

Chapter 17

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1. In verse 2 we see Paul's custom when he enters a city. He goes to them and reasons with them, explaining and demonstrating. An interesting approach to sharing your faith. Sometimes we are hesitant because we are unsure of what to say. Break down what the Lord has done in your life in these 3 areas:

- Reasoning with the Scriptures- what did it make sense for you?
- Explaining-be clear and concise, have you ever explained your faith?
- Demonstrating-how did God change your life?

All of this, verse 3 "that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead" so that we may have a relationship with God.

2. Paul and Silas now enter Berea. Verse 11 states that the Bereans were "more fair-minded" than those in Thessalonica. What did the Bereans do that the Thessalonians did not? This is a great discipline to have no matter who is teaching you. Read 2 Timothy 2:15.
3. As Paul addressed the people in Athens, he received a variety of responses. In Matthew 13, Jesus tells us that the word sown falls on different kinds of ground. What comparisons do you see?

Chapter 18

1. We find out Paul's professional trade, a tentmaker. He worked through the week, and on the Sabbaths, he was doing what?
2. The Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, what was the Lord's encouragement to Paul?
3. The Jews of Corinth brought Paul to Gallio wanting him to judge Paul. The outcome here is not what usually happens with Paul. What did the Greeks do?
4. Paul cuts off his hair in Cenchrea and takes a vow, a Nazirite vow. This is a vow of full commitment to God; your head is shaved for 30 days and you do not eat meat or wine. Has the Lord ever asked you to make some drastic changes in your life? Have you been faithful to those commitments?
5. Apollos, "eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures" yet didn't have the complete truth. Notice how Aquila and Priscilla handled this. The correction came as they took him aside and explained to him the lack. We often stand and point a finger with the attitude "I am right and you are wrong". If you find yourself thinking this way, ask for God's forgiveness and ask Him to teach you to be gentle in your approach to people. Read Philippians 4:5.

Chapter 19

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1. Paul came to Ephesus and found some disciples. As they talked, Paul asked if they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they believed. Did you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit when you believed?
2. Verse 11 says that the Lord worked “unusual” miracles by the hands of Paul. Notice what happens when someone tries to “use” the Lord, but does not “know” the Lord.
3. We see here again in scripture that the works (miracles) of God always brings repentance, people believing. We see the change here in verse 19. Remember what God has done in your life, don’t turn back to the things of your old life. If there is something that you have gone back too, lay it again at the feet of Jesus, ask for His forgiveness and walk in His love and grace.
4. The riot in Ephesus, this “Christianity thing” has now hit their economy. People were not purchasing idols to worship any longer. The Lords arms are always wide opened to accept all, but when we get there, change must take place. What changes has God made in your life that has been easy? What about the difficult ones? Trust the Lord! Read Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28.

Chapter 20

Paul calls the elders of Ephesus together and encourages them. Below are some of Paul’s comments, what do these words mean to you?

- a. Verse 18-“I have always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility.”
- b. Verse 20-“I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you and taught you in public.”
- c. Verse 23-“The Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.”
- d. Verse 24-“But none of these things move me; nor do I 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.”
- e. Verse 26-27-“Therefore I testify to you this day that I [am] innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
- f. Verse 29-30-“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”
- g. Verse 31-“Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

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- h. Verse 33-34-"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. "

Chapter 21

1. Paul went sailing finally landing in Tyre. He met some disciples, they left the city and went and knelt down on the shore and prayed. Is the Lord nudging you to get together with some believers and pray?
2. Paul ends up at Phillip's house, a prophet named Agabus and gives a prophesy about Paul. Notice his response, how would you respond to these words?
3. Paul finally makes it to Jerusalem and gets to spend time with James and the elders of the church, again discussing the Gentiles and the law. We all should be very thankful that God's grace is always abundant when we are taught the Word (that we don't always understand).
4. In the temple, Paul is mobbed, beat up and arrested. Yet he still looks for an opportunity to share Christ. How diligent are we when things get tough? God wants to use you, don't always look at the current circumstances, you never know when an opportunity will come!

Chapter 22

1. Paul now begins to speak to the crowd. Notice how he addresses the Jews, he gives his testimony. This is who I was, and now who I am. Jesus has changed me. How has Jesus changed you? Who today might need to hear your testimony?
2. Verse 18-22, Paul's heart longed for his people the Jews and now he had his opportunity. Paul had wanted to go to Jerusalem and God said "no, go to the Gentiles". Paul waited almost 17 years to return to Jerusalem. Is there something in your life that you want to do and God is saying "no, go to another place"?
3. Paul's Roman citizenship has saved him from a scourging. God's wonderful plan unfolding as Paul trusts Him along this journey. What are some things in your life that God has used to deliver you?

Chapter 23

1. Who made up the council that Paul was speaking too?
2. Ananias commanded those who stood by to strike Paul. What was Paul's response?
3. Whitewashed walls-In those days, under the Law, a Jew could not touch a dead body. Over the countryside there were rock-hewn sepulchers. Through the years some

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became half hidden or buried. If a Jew touched any of these areas, they would have to go through purification rites before they could enter the temple because they were considered unclean. They had touched something that was touching a dead body, so to protect the people; the Jews would paint these tombs with whitewash so they would stand out. Read Matthew 23:27. Paul picked up on a term that Jesus used. What do we have in our life that looks good on the outside, but is full of dead bones on the inside? Is there something you need to confess it to the Lord? Let His blood cleanse you and make you new!

4. The Lord gives Paul new direction and encouragement then the trouble begins. What happens to Paul next? How does the Lord get Paul to Rome?

Chapter 24

1. What do you think about Tertullus' comments to the governor? Is there any truth to his comments?
2. Paul's opening comment ends with verse 16 "***This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.***" Paul is very purposeful in his actions. What can this teach us about what we do and why we do it?
3. Paul gets the privilege to witness to Felix. Verse 25 says he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come. Felix was afraid and told him to go away for a more convenient time. Felix wasn't just putting off Paul's judgment but his own decision to accept Jesus. What has the Lord been speaking to you about that you keep putting off for "a more convenient time?"

Chapter 25

1. Why did the Jews want Paul to be judged in Jerusalem?
2. Paul states to Festus, "to the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know". Paul is getting the run-around. So what does he do?
3. Paul is now put before King Agrippa. King Agrippa was a proselyte, a gentile who practiced Judaism and Paul takes this opportunity to witness. We know the end of the story and it is exciting to see who the Lord brings into Paul's life. Your life on the other hand, we don't know the end of the story. Will you take a step of faith and trust God that He does have a plan for your life and wait to see what exciting opportunities await you? Everything can change in the next 5 minutes!

Chapter 26

1. Paul shares his testimony with King Agrippa. Isn't it amazing how God works in our lives? Who in your life needs to hear your story?
2. Verse 18 is a wonderful prayer for our friends that have not accepted the Lord yet. Take time to write it out, memorize it and pray for your friends that do not know Jesus.

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3. King Agrippa hears the gospel, what is his response?
4. What is the consensus of Agrippa and Festus about Paul?

Chapter 27

1. Paul develops a relationship with the centurion Julius. As their journeys proceed, Paul gives Julius a warning. What is the response of Julius and the outcome of the warning?
2. Paul gives advice again during the storm. What is the response to his words this time?
3. Paul speaks in verse 34 “since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.” After these words, notice verse 42. Does everyone survive?
4. At the end of this chapter, there is an interesting observation. Our culture has often looked at customs in America and thought that certain things originated in the States. We read of “surfing” of the coast of Malta, recorded here in Acts 27:44.
5. Paul’s words were true, “they all escaped safely to the land.” Paul was tuned into God’s plan for his life. He wasn’t looking at the circumstances around him; his faith was in God, the Creator of the universe. Where is your faith at today? Is there something going on that is distracting you from God’s plan for your life? Read Jeremiah 29:11.

Chapter 28

1. Who would have ever thought that a snake bite could change the hearts of the natives in Malta? Sometimes our actions speak to people we don’t even know. **1 Peter 2:15** *For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.* God is waiting to use you in ways you could not imagine. Ask God now how He could use you today. Are you willing to take a chance that God would use you in a miraculous way?
2. Paul kept his focus on the Lord. How would you have responded if you were there with Paul? Worry of the storm? Death by a shipwreck? Pain in a snake bite? Today is not eternity, but an opportunity to allow God to work in our situations of life. **Roman 8:35** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* Paul penned these words; he trusted in God, had faith in God and obeyed. Take time now to lay the things of this world at the feet of Jesus.
3. Verse 20, Paul had hope for Israel (the Jewish people). Are you practicing the hope of God for yourself? Your friends? Your family?
 - a. **Psalm 42:5** *Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.*

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- b. *Psalm 71:14 But I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more.*
 - c. *Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.*
 - d. *Psalm 147:11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.*
 - e. *Lamentations 3:24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*
 - f. *Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*
 - g. *Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*
 - h. *1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*
4. We see Paul now bound, living in a home he is renting in Rome. For 2 years, he welcomes all, explaining and solemnly testifying the Kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets. Some believe some do not; some are challenged with their tradition. Isaiah 6:9-10 is quoted by Paul but they still struggle. May the Holy Spirit speak to you now concerning your struggles, may God heal your heart, allow Jesus to come in and heal those things you do not understand. ***Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*** Live in God's grace and mercy, and be filled to overflowing with His Spirit!