

Acts Lesson 41 Handout

So we can have deep spiritual roots to keep us from breaking when the things of this world become too difficult.



You control how you grow.

To grow up in your spiritual life - it takes an enormous amount of commitment.

Acts 17:1

1 Paul and Silas traveled through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to the city of Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue.

2 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

We can't reap if we never sow.

2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this: The farmer who plants a few seeds will have a very small harvest. But the farmer who plants because he has received God's blessings will receive a harvest of God's blessings in return.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITH THE WORD OF GOD CHANGES OUR LIFE.

4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also;

7 and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

8 They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.

9 And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

*Knowing
no matter
what is put
in front of
them - God
has a purpose.*

11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Ephesians 4:2-3: "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

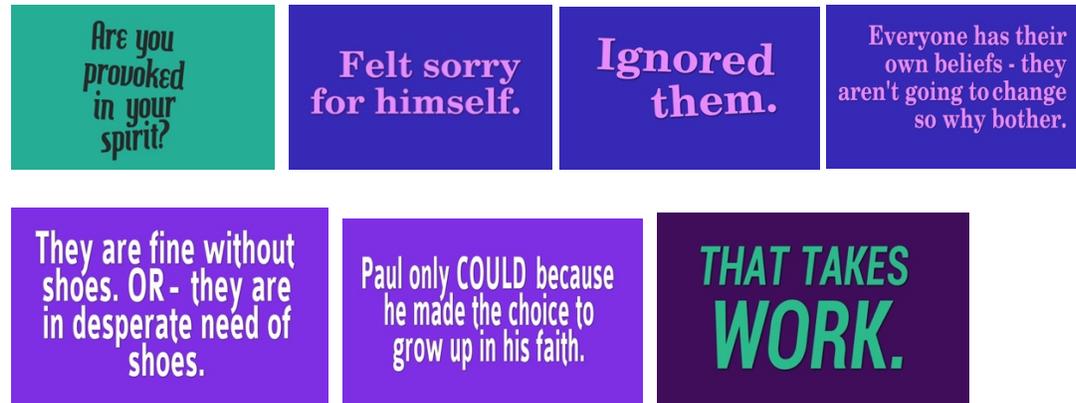
12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

14 Then immediately the brethren sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there.

15 Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left.

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.



2 Kings 5:27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

2 Kings 8:4 Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done."

17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.

18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?"

20 "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean."

21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.

23 "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

29 "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

Each idol revealed that these men and women of Athens had a great capacity for God. They knew there was something beyond man, and they were seeking for it.

People who follow false religions just like the Athenian idol worshipers, they have the capacity for God - we just need to tell them about the one true God.

30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,

31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."

1 Corinthians 3:5 - Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Coz Von -

I met Jesus at a conference of Christian managers. But his story is a little out of the ordinary.

The conference was hosted in a beautiful facility in Dallas, Texas, and the organizers had done a fantastic job at putting together a good program. We had great meetings and warm fellowship, and I learned a tremendous amount about good management practices.

But my greatest joy during the conference took place, not in one of the many excellent seminars, but in the hallway of the hotel where we stayed. That's where I met Jesus.

Jesus came walking down the hallway at the same time that I was praying that I could meet someone who needed

to meet, well, Jesus. You see, this Jesus is a custodian in the new, state-of-the-art facility where the convention was being held. When I saw his name tag, I switched into Spanish. We spoke together about Mexico, his native land, and about his family. I prayed silently for a way to share Jesus with Jesus.

I asked Jesus if he went to church. Jesus didn't go to church. How ironic. I asked Jesus if he had a Bible. Jesus didn't have a Bible. How odd.

Jesus' face lit up when I suggested that I would get him a Bible in Spanish if he desired. He pulled out his driver's license and gave me his home address so I could mail it to him. He promised me that he would visit one of the churches in his area.

Later that night, as I spoke to Jesus in prayer, He spoke to me about my newfound friend, Jesus. He knew that Jesus needed to have His Word now. So the following day a friend of mine agreed to take me to the store nearby so I might get a Bible for Jesus. We found one and headed back to the hotel. Now came the difficult task of finding Jesus in this huge facility of over 1,500 rooms. I prayed that I might find Jesus.

A concierge for the hotel was in the lobby seeking to assist guests navigate the expansive halls. I asked her, "Do you know Jesus?" She gave me a quizzical look.

Realizing that I had just made her rather uncomfortable, I restated my question. "Do you know the man Jesus who works here and how I might be able to contact him?" She said she did not know him. I told her that I was praying Jesus would walk up while we were talking together. She asked if I knew what department he worked in and what type of clothing he wore. As I tried to recall if he had been wearing a gray outfit or green, Jesus appeared.

The concierge walked away saying, "That was God."

We greeted each other warmly, and I told Jesus that I had gone to the store to get him a Bible. I presented him with La Santa Biblia, and he was very grateful. There was a co-worker with Jesus, a young woman from Mexico. I invited them to a quiet corner of the lobby so we could pray together.

My Spanish is a little rusty, so I was quite surprised that when we bowed our heads together and I began to pray, both Jesus and his co-worker repeated my words in humble supplication. The tone of the prayer changed, and so did my heart as I realized just how extraordinary my meeting with Jesus was at this conference. Jesus and his friend both asked Jesus to open their hearts, to reveal Himself to them, and to teach them to know Him personally as their Savior. As we parted from one another, I marveled.

Jesus now has a Bible. And Jesus will be going to church, because Jesus met Jesus.

You begin looking
around with different
eyes. Spiritual eyes.

Do you
WANT
to grow
spiritually?

There's a story about a proud young man who came to Socrates asking for knowledge. He walked up to the muscular philosopher and said, "O great Socrates, I come

to you for knowledge." Socrates recognized a pompous numbskull when he saw one. He led the young man through the streets, to the sea, and chest deep into water. Then he asked, "What do you want?" "Knowledge, O wise Socrates," said the young man with a smile.

Socrates put his strong hands on the man's shoulders and pushed him under. Thirty seconds later Socrates let him up. "What do you want?" he asked again. "Wisdom," the young man sputtered, "O great and wise Socrates."

Socrates crunched him under again. Thirty seconds passed, thirty-five. Forty. Socrates let him up. The man was gasping. "What do you want, young man?" Between heavy, heaving breaths the fellow wheezed, "Knowledge, O wise and wonderful..."

Socrates jammed him under again Forty seconds passed. Fifty. "What do you want?" "Air!" he screeched. "I need air!"

"When you want knowledge as you have just wanted air, then you will have knowledge."

*You will only get that
if you want it as bad
as you want air.*