

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## IMPRISONED

**Have you ever had a season  
where life throws you one problem  
after another problem?**

**Acts 20:22-23 (NIV)** “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup>I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.”

### **Paul was lied about**

**Acts 21:27-28 (NIV)** “. . . some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, <sup>28</sup>shouting, ‘. . . he has brought Greeks into the temple area and defiled this holy place.’”

### **They tried to kill Paul**

**Acts 21:31 (NIV)** “While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.”

### **Paul was arrested**

**Acts 22:23-24<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, <sup>24</sup>the commander ordered Paul to be taken into the barracks.”

### **Paul sits was sent to prison**

**Acts 23:23 (NIV)** “(The Commander) called two of his centurions and ordered them, ‘Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight.’”

**Acts 23:35<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “Then (the governor) ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod’s palace.”

### **Paul was in prison for over two years**

**Acts 24:27 (NIV)** “When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.”

### **Things go from bad to worse for Paul**

## **THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU GO THROUGH A SEASON OF PROBLEMS:**

**1st – Listening to God's voice matters more than any other voice.**

**Acts 20:22-23 (NIV)** “And now, compelled (literally bound) by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup>I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.”

**Acts 21:4 (NIV)** “We sought out the disciples (in Tyre) and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.”

**2nd – Success is doing God's will not living a comfortable life.**

**Acts 20:23-24 (NIV)** “I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

<sup>24</sup>However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has

given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”

**Acts 21:12 (NIV)** “When we heard this (the prophecy from Agabus), we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.”

**Acts 21:13 (NIV)** “Then Paul answered, ‘Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’”

**Acts 21:14 (NIV)** “When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, ‘The Lord’s will be done.’”

### 3rd - Finding your courage in God is better than playing it safe.

**Acts 23:11 (NIV)** “... the Lord stood near Paul and said, ‘Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.’”

Five times he received 39 lashes (2 Cor. 11:24).

Three times he was beaten with rods (2 Cor. 11:25).

One time he was stoned to death (2 Cor. 11:25).

Three times he was shipwrecked (2 Cor. 11:25).

He was in danger from rivers, bandits and people (2 Cor. 11:26).

He has been thirsty, hungry, naked and cold (2 Cor. 11:27).

**2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)** “But (God) said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

**2 Timothy 4:6-8, (NIV)** “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day ...”