

Acts
Priorities
August 18, 2024

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Priorities of the Church by Paul to the Ephesian Church:

1. Choose _____ over status.

Acts 20:18-21 When they arrived he declared, “You know that from the day I set foot in the province of Asia until now I have done the Lord’s work **humbly and with many tears**. I have **endured the trials** that came to me from the plots of the Jews. **I never shrank back** from telling you **what you needed to hear**, either publicly or in your homes. I have had **one message** for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of **repenting from sin and turning to God**, and of **having faith** in our Lord Jesus.”

Mark 10:41-45 When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were **indignant**. So Jesus called them **together** and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. **But among you it will be different**. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came **not to be served** but to **serve others** and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

2. Choose _____ over quitting.

Acts 20:22-27 “And now I am **bound by the Spirit** to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that **jail and suffering lie ahead**. But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for **finishing the work** assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the **wonderful grace of God**. And now I know that none of you to whom I have preached the Kingdom will ever see me again. I declare today that I have been **faithful**. If anyone suffers eternal death, it’s not my fault, for I didn’t shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.”

3. Choose the _____ over the world.

Acts 20:28-31 “So **guard yourselves and God’s people**. **Feed and shepherd** God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which **the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders**. I know that **false**

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teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and **distort the truth** in order to draw a following. **Watch out!** Remember the three years I was with you—**my constant watch and care over you** night and day, and my **many tears** for you.”

2 Timothy 4:1-5 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the **time will come** when people will not put up with **sound doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

4. Choose legacy over the _____.

Acts 20:32-35 “And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an **inheritance** with all those he has set apart for himself. I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**”

Hebrews 11:13-16 All these people were still **living by faith** when they died. They did not receive the things promised; **they only saw** them and welcomed them from a **distance**, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one.** Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Walk Away: People who don’t know God and the way _____ works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how He works. _____ your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will _____ you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. (Matthew 6:33-34 MSG)

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