

UNSTOPPABLE

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS



Six Characteristics of An Unstoppable Church

from Acts chapter 5

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11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

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The first Characteristic of an Unstoppable Church.

**1.They live in the Fear of the Lord,
acknowledging the Holiness of God and His
hatred of Sin.**

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It can be exalting to belong to a church that is five hundred years behind the times... it is mortifying to belong to a church that is five minutes behind the times, huffing and puffing to catch up."

— *Joseph Sobran* —

AZ QUOTES

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We are told in v.13, “no one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people”.

Nevertheless, Luke goes on to say in v.14, “more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number”

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1² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people...¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

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The second Characteristic of an Unstoppable Church.

2. They confidently ministered in power not just words.

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17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.

18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. 20 "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

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***"I was one way,
and now I'm
completely
different. And
the thing that
happened in
between was
Him (Jesus)."***



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²¹ At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles.

²² But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, ²³ “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors;

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23 but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” 24 On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

25 Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” 26 At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

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The third Characteristic of an Unstoppable Church

3. They act with the conviction that no earthly power can stop the progress of the gospel.

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- **The church in Iran is the "*fastest growing in the world.*"**



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27 The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said.

“Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

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The fourth Characteristic of an Unstoppable Church

4. They prioritized obeying God over the laws and dictates of men.

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33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

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³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.

³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

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38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.

39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

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**40 His speech persuaded them.
They called the apostles in and had them
flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak
in the name of Jesus and let them go.**

**41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing
because they had been counted worthy of
suffering disgrace for the Name.**

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The fifth Characteristic of an Unstoppable Church

5. They expected to suffer for the name and viewed it as a confirmation of their loyalty.

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The sixth Characteristic of an Unstoppable Church.

6. The presence of suffering doesn't mean the absence of joy.

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42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

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Invite your friends to
a Free Dinner
at Floridino's
in Chandler
on Wednesday Oct 4th
6:30–8:30pm

fc >> Alpha

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