



# **“What Shall I Do LORD?”**

## **ACTS Chapter 22**

> **What shall we do LORD when our FAITH is on TRIAL:**

*Go for God!*

**#1 – (v1-5) DEFEND THE FAITH!**

**#2 – (v6-9) SHINE HIS LIGHT!**

**#3 – (v10-21) TRUST IN THE LORD!**

**#4 – (v22-30) BE ACTIVE IN POLITICS!**

> **#1 – (v1-5) DEFEND THE FAITH!**

- (v1) A proper DEFENSE is based in a **TRUTHFUL FOUNDATION OF EVIDENCE!**

- (v2) COMMUNICATE so all will UNDERSTAND!

- (v3) Provide your CREDENTIALS, Paul a Jew, taught and trained under the great Jewish scholar Gamaliel.

- **Who is Gamaliel?** The son of rabbi Simeon, and grandson of the famous rabbi Hillel. He was a Pharisee, and therefore the opponent of the party of the Sadducees. He was noted for his learning, and was president of the Sanhedrim during the reign of Tiberius, Caligula, and Claudius, and died, it is said, about eighteen years before the destruction of Jerusalem. When the apostles were brought before the council, charged with preaching the resurrection of Jesus, as a zealous Pharisee Gamaliel counseled moderation and calmness. By a reference to well-known events, he advised them to "refrain from these men." If their work or counsel was of man, it would come to nothing; but if it was of God, they could not destroy it, and therefore ought to be on their guard lest they should be "*found fighting against God*" (**Acts 5:34-40**).  
(from Easton's Bible Dictionary)

- **Understanding Paul's B.C. days ("before Christ")** - Galatians 1:13-14  
- **For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.**

- **Philippians 3:4-11** - *If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to*

*me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

- (v4-5) Share your past sinful life as appropriate, whereas to glorify the present grace of God through Jesus Christ!

> #2 – (v6-9) SHINE HIS LIGHT!

- (v6) Let us understand this LIGHT! - Illumination; the opposite of darkness. The Bible also speaks of light as the symbol of God's presence and righteous activity.

Light has been associated with the presence, truth, and redemptive activity of God since creation. Before man was created, light was brought into being by the Creator: "Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good" (Gen 1:3-4). Throughout the Bible, light represents truth, goodness, and God's redemptive work. Darkness, on the other hand, symbolizes error, evil, and the works of Satan (Gen 1:4).

Several of the miracles recorded in the Bible are related to light and darkness: the "Pillar of Fire" that guided the Israelites in the wilderness (Ex 3:21), the sun standing still at Gibeon at Joshua's request (Josh 10:12-13), and the fall of darkness at midday when Jesus was being crucified (Matt 27:45).

God or God's Word, the Bible, are frequently represented as lights or lamps to enlighten and guide the believer (1 John 1:5). "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105). The Psalmist also declared, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Ps 27:1). Light is also used as a symbol of holiness and purity. Paul counseled the Christians at Rome to "put on the armor of light" (Rom 13:12).

The New Testament presents Jesus as the personification of light or divine illumination: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Jesus plainly stated that those who rejected this divine light would bring judgment upon themselves (John 3:19-21). Jesus and the New Testament writers extended the figure of light to include faithful Christian witnesses, who were called "children of light" (Eph 5:8). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Listen to Jesus in John 3:16-21 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

- John the beloved brings TRUTH TO LIGHT in 1 John 1:5-2:2 - *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

(v7-8) Paul asked a great question, "Who are you Lord?" The LORD responds, "I AM JESUS OF NAZARETH, whom you are persecuting." JESUS IS ALIVE!!! Paul has met the RESURRECTED CHRIST!!! Paul has been persecuting the "body of Christ!"

> #3 – (v10-21) TRUST IN THE LORD!

(v10) Paul prayed a great prayer, "What shall I do, Lord?" And our Lord Jesus directed Paul's blind steps.

- This reflects to the promise of God in Proverbs 3:3-8 –

*Let not mercy and truth forsake you;  
Bind them around your neck,  
Write them on the tablet of your heart,  
And so find favor and high esteem  
In the sight of God and man.  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.*

*Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.  
It will be health to your flesh,  
And strength to your bones.*

- Trust is in the details, let us review Paul's salvation from Acts chapter 9.

(v11-16) Paul testifies of faithful Ananias; it is good to share about others and their work of faith!

(v17) Sidenote: Does baptism wash away our sins or faith in Christ alone?

- In the doctrinal book, *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ by Schriener and Wright* they explain in Christ alone, here's 5 points:

1. Paul tells that he did not receive or hear the Gospel from Ananias, but rather he heard it directly from Christ. Galatians 1:11-12 says, "For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ." So, Paul heard and believed in Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul had already believed in Christ when Ananias came to pray for him to receive his sight (Acts 9:17).

2. It also should be noted that, at the time when Ananias prayed for him to receive his sight, Paul also received the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17)—this was before he was baptized (Acts 9:18). Acts presents a transition period where God's focus turns from Israel to the Church. The events recorded in Acts are not always normative. With regard to receiving the Holy Spirit, the norm is that a person receives and is permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

3. The Greek aorist participle, *epikalesamenos*, translated "calling on His name" refers either to action that is simultaneous with or before that of the main verb, "be baptized." Here Paul is calling on Christ's name for salvation preceded his water baptism. The participle may be translated "having called on His name" which makes more sense, as it would clearly indicate the order of the events.

4. Concerning the words, "be baptized, and wash away your sins," because Paul was already cleansed spiritually at the time Christ appeared to him, these words must refer to the symbolism of baptism. Baptism is a picture of God's inner work of washing away sin (1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 Peter 3:21).

5. It is also interesting that when Paul recounted this event again later in Acts (Acts 26:12-18), he did not mention Ananias or what Ananias said to him at all. Verse 18 again would confirm the idea that Paul received Christ as Savior on the road to Damascus since here Christ is telling Paul he will be a messenger for Him concerning forgiveness of sins for Gentiles as they have faith in Him. It would seem unlikely that Christ would commission Paul if Paul had not yet believed in Him.

(v18-21) Here, we witness that Paul tells the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, which gets him into trouble (persecution). Paul would not compromise his testimony, let us follow this example, no matter the cost!

> #4 – (v22-30) BE ACTIVE IN POLITICS!

- Here Paul uses his Roman citizenship to avoid mob rule, injustice, and to further his opportunities to preach the gospel!

- Let us end with a reading from Romans chapter 13 and the importance of political activism; meaning laws give us rights or tyranny.

- Ultimately our greatest citizenship is heavenly- *Philippians 3:20-21- For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*