Energized for Mission - The Relentless Advancement of God's Mission

Acts 12:1-25

It seems like chapter 12 has a lot of random details thrown together. James is martyred. Peter is arrested. There's a miraculous _____. Then a diplomatic summit, a political _____ and a sudden, unexplained death. What do all these different, detailed accounts have to do with one another?

The answer is in verse 24, "*But the Word of God increased and multiplied*." Nothing can stop the _____ of God. Not the execution of a leader. Not the arrest of another leader. Not four squads of soldiers or a maximum security _____. Not the pride and arrogance of a king, nor his adoring mob. Nothing stops the _____.

Not even the _____ can stop the Gospel. Look at what Peter encounters at Mary's house. Rhoda is on another planet. Instead of _____ the door she tells everyone inside, and they proceed to assume she's out of her mind. How _____. But facts are stubborn things and the Gospel _____.

This is an important point today. Many churches will celebrate _____ Sunday, an annual celebration of the day a German monk named Martin Luther nailed his criticisms of church leadership to the church doors. Christian leaders were doing untold harm to the _____ of God's Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the sake of power and _____. Yet, even then, and still to this day, the _____ continues to spread.

This is a helpful reminder as we see churches around us shrink and close. God doesn't _____ us. We are given the privilege of being used by God for his glorious _____. But we don't get to choose how our lives most glorify God. That's why many _____ to be used by God for his mission. We want to be _____, not James. We want to be Martin Luther, not Jan Hus or others that came before.

It's important to remember that God's mission is _____ because HE is unstoppable. He is GOD! He _____ the heavens and the earth and he puts those in power whom he wills. When Satan tempted Eve and humanity fell into sin, that great rejection of God and the evil it fostered were not too much for him. He sent his _____ and holy Son, Jesus Christ to pay the price for our redemption. There is NO sin too great that it can overcome the blood of _____! Of course, Jesus did not _____ dead either. Jesus _____ from the dead! He conquered sin, death, and the devil once and for all!

As the Holy Spirit energizes us for mission, these are crucial points to keep in mind. Will we glide through mission work _____? There's no guarantee. Will our _____ materialize as we envisioned? Maybe not. Can any of this stop the Gospel from spreading? _____! Can any of these things put an end to us? NO WAY.

So, do not be _____. Do not grow weary in doing good. Do not _____ those that can only harm you in this life. Do not let your plans and expectations override what God might want to do.

How is the Holy Spirit causing you to marvel at the unstoppable nature of God and his Gospel?

How is the Holy Spirit encouraging you to look past apparent defeats?

How is the Holy Spirit asking you to bravely trust God in a new way?

What is the Holy Spirit leading you to DO to share the Good News of what Christ has DONE?