

Message by Eric R. Ross

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with thanks to our friend Rev. Joseph Cohen

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Tell the People

Introduction – 6 min

This message begins in the book of Acts. And, some people call it the Acts of the Apostles. For me, it is the beginning of the Acts of the son's and daughters of God.

Well, lets get started with a quick overview.

John 17:20-21 (ASV) Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me.

Acts 1:8 (ASV) But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- In Acts 2 we find the disciples, not just the apostles, empowered after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:16-18 (ASV) but this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams: 18 Yea and on My servants and on My handmaidens in those days Will I pour forth of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

- Then, in Acts 3, Peter and John prayed for a man on their way to the temple and he was completely healed.
- The response in Acts 4, is that the leaders put them in jail and said stop preaching this message.

When they were released, they went to the Church, "their own company" Acts 4:23, and they all prayed together. You may know their prayer in

Acts 4:29-30 KJV And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, (30) By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that

signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

- Then in Acts 5 we see the streets lined with sick people, and they are being healed as Peter's shadow goes by.
- Then, again, Peter and John are back in jail.

OK, so, now, to our main text

Acts 5:19-20 KJV But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, (20) Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

There is a message we have for the world, and God has chosen us to deliver it but there are hindrances, there are reasons that we are held back.

Short Testimony: When I was seven, my mom sent us, my two younger sisters and me, to Vacation Bible school. We weren't a Christian family and never attended Church. But that summer, my parents took us to a Sunday morning service at Highland Park Baptist Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. I still remember walking down the aisle with my sister to accept Christ. We were both baptized, it was a Baptist Church you know, and we never went back. It wasn't until I was married and had children of my own that I began to read the Bible for myself and I discovered again, God's Love for me.

Just the other day, I heard an old message from R. W. Schambach and he told this story about a lady talking to her friend. She said, "I keep falling out of my bed, every night I fall out of bed again". Her friend then asked her, "Why do you think you keep falling out of bed", and she answered, "I stay too close to where I got in "

The point here is, that accepting Christ as Lord and savior is just the edge of the bed. And in my own experience, I can tell you that from the time I accepted Christ, I know God protected me. But, I wasn't any use to His Kingdom on earth until I began to learn what God has to say in His word.

I want you to know that there is a deeper relationship that God wants to have with us.

The Propositional Statement

What the angel said to Peter and John was

“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”

The Transitional Sentence

But Peter and John weren't exactly like us because before this time, Peter and John had been with Jesus. They had been prepared, they knew exactly the message the angel meant for them to speak. We, on the other hand, need to:

Study to be a Workman

Main Body – 48 min

First Point – 12 min

We aren't born knowing the things of God, we must learn them.

2Timothy 2:15 KJV Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

How can we tell people about God if we don't know ourselves?

God is, and has been revealing himself to men. Now for those whose sensitivities have just reacted to this masculine inference, I mean this in the gender-neutral sense. God is revealing himself to all of humanity, all of His creation.

A Short Aside: I came across an article in the Huffington Post titled "Why It's So Easy To Be Negative (And What To Do About It)". The writer says that "you are simply a product of intelligent human design whereby bad overpowers good". There is this recognition in the world of Psychology that humans have a built-in negativity bias. What they don't know, is that this wasn't by God's design, but is an effect of the fallen nature of man and God has been revealing this from generation to generation. There is a new nature that we need. There is a knowledge of God that we need.

When we accept Christ's work on the cross and understand the payment made by his blood and recognize his resurrection from the dead, that He holds the keys of death and hell, and we accept him as Lord and savior, we receive the love of God and are born again as I was at seven. And then, we have access to the Holy Spirit of God to teach us.

Well, back to our main point, there was something more than just being with Jesus that prepared Peter and John.

When we accept the Holy Spirit as they did in Acts 2, we speak forth the wonderful works of God. And I am shortening this a bit here but

Acts 2:7-11 KJV And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak

Galilaeans? ... we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Accepting Christ translates us spiritually into His Kingdom. Then, there is this natural life for us to live for God.

Isaiah 55:6-9 KJV Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: (7) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

I could add many scriptures to further emphasize this point but let's move on.

I encourage you today to read your Bible and ask God to teach you by His Holy Spirit.

1 John 5:20 KJV And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Knowing God is an important step for us. And, knowing we have eternal life is foundational for us. But, we only come to know him fully if we seek him and study.

Romans 12:2 (ASV) And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, and ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (ASV) For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ... 13 For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. 14 But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

Let's go on to another main point.

Put on the Armor of God

Second Point – 12 min

Knowledge isn't the only thing we need to

“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”

If we were only dealing with people and fallen human nature, we could use our study and knowledge and simply present God's word because every person has free will to choose. Now I know I am in danger of stirring up doctrinal reactions, but please, just take this comment at face value for now, when people are unencumbered, and hear the word of God, no devil or hell itself can stop them from choosing Christ.

But Well, you know what this word means don't you? It means that what I just said isn't that simple.

There is an enemy that is absolutely against us.

Ephesians 6:11-13 KJV Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I have heard many people focus on the principalities and powers but let's look at this phrase here, "the wiles of the devil". I think that most people recognize the devil as bad, But the devil here is absolute evil, intent on destroying the things of God. And, what is worse, is this word "wiles" which is a bit lost on us today.

Wiles is the word *methodeias*, which is defined as "methodical stratagems".

As a noun, it means: devious or cunning stratagems employed in manipulating or persuading someone to do what one wants.

As a verb, its archaic meaning is: to lure; entice.

Synonyms are: tricks, ruses, ploys, schemes, dodges, maneuvers, subterfuges, shenanigans, artifices

Earlier in Ephesians we see this same word translated as "lie in wait to deceive". Let's read:

Ephesians 4:14 KJV That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

This armor is to help us stand against this evil, devious, cunning, enemy.

Understand here that the armor is not a physical suit. This is spiritual armor that is expressed in natural behavior and we put it on by our character.

Did you get what I said there? Spiritual armor is put on, by doing something, by specific natural behavior. Lets read:

Ephesians 6:14-17 KJV Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- Having your loins girt about with truth – we must tell the truth, stand for the truth, seek the truth.
- The breastplate of righteousness – we must live holy lives as God is holy.
- Your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace – we must know these words of the Kingdom of God, salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked – believe Gods word.

Romans 10:17 (ASV) So belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

- The helmet of salvation – our minds must be settled, and we must have our own confidence in our salvation.

- The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God – ready to speak, not with our own authority, but with the power of God’s precious promises. That is how Jesus himself overcame temptation. He said, “it is written”

I am going to give you David as an example of a warrior for God. He did not have any physical armor and yet overcame. But his adversary, Goliath was well armored and still fell.

1 Samuel 17:34-37 KJV And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: (35) And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. (36) Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. (37) David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

David had tested and proven his faith in God to deliver him. David knew God’s promises. David stood in the power of God’s might and not his own.

God has given us spiritual armor, the protection, and the offensive weapons that we need. But, we need to put it on by the way we live our lives as Christians.

I want to encourage you to put on the armor of God. Stand for the truth, live holy, prepare to share the gospel, have faith in God, keep your mind on things above and claim God’s precious promises

There is something more than just knowledge and armor

Let’s go on to another main point.

Avoid the Snare

Third Point – 12 min

Most Christians have heard this message about putting on the armor of God, but I don't often hear people talk about avoiding the snare. If we are trapped by the devil, we can't fulfill what the angel said to Peter and John:

"Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."

Let me begin this point with these verses

Romans 13:12-13 KJV The night is far spent, the day is at hand: **let us** therefore cast off the works of darkness, and **let us** put on the armour of light. (13) **Let us** walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

This very much puts the action on us to cast off the works of darkness, to put on the armor, to live honestly, and certainly our will is involved. But this is not as simple as we might want it to be. There are behaviors that are habitual, like drunkenness, that are not easy to break. There is something more for us to understand here.

Fausset, a commentator, says "Satan seeks to "get an advantage of" believers (2Corinthians 2:11)"

He, Satan, has

1. "devices" (noemata) "mental perception, thought) which is mentioned in 2Corinthians 2:11.
2. "wiles" (methodeias, "methodical stratagems", "cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery") which we previously covered in Ephesians 6:11.
3. "snares" (pagis) "caught suddenly, unexpectedly" which are mentioned in 1Timothy 3:7.

Our enemy will ensnare us if he can

Luke 11:21-22 (ASV) When the strong man fully armed guardeth his own court, his goods are in peace: 22 but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him his whole armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

The whole point of wiles and snares is that you don't see them for what they are. By the time you see them, it is too late. You are caught.

Now, the snare isn't always what we might first think. It isn't just addictions. It can also come through shame.

1 Timothy 3:7 (ASV) Moreover he must have good testimony from them that are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

I think we have all seen those we might describe as good people, even pillars in the community, make a mistake, intentionally or not, that caused them to lose their position. And in these cases, what they might have done for God's Kingdom is stifled, maybe even aborted.

Also in Timothy:

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (ASV) But they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

It isn't money that is the problem, it is the love of money. And what is money? It is possessions, things, power. And, when you start to use these things to get others to do what you want, you step into the very wiles of the devil himself.

Note: As happened in Ninevah. See Nahum 3:1-4.

In the old testament, God gave this warning.

Exodus 23:32-33 (ASV) Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in thy land,

lest they make thee sin against me; for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

There is a righteous and holy way for us to live. We are to be separate from unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:14 (ASV) Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness?

Personal Application: I want to encourage you take action against anything in your life that is controlling you, whether it is an addiction, debt, or even a lustful desire, get a grip. Get Gods word and understand His great promises for you. Repent, and get free.

Repentance and knowledge are the keys to deliver people out of the snare.

2 Timothy 2:24 - 3:1 (ASV) And the Lord's servant must not strive, but be gentle towards all, apt to teach, forbearing, 25 in meekness correcting them that oppose themselves; if peradventure God may give them repentance unto the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him unto his will.

Once we are free from the snare, we can move forward with God. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Take care of it. Live a fasted life. Not that you abuse yourself because God has given us all things to enjoy, but be holy as He is holy.

1 Timothy 6:17 (KJV) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Let's avoid the snare and take another main point.

Run the Race - Cloud of Witnesses (Point 4)

Fourth Point – 12 min

You may not realize it, but you are seldom alone. We are reminded to

“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”

As Christians, we are never alone. There are always people looking at us because we are the light of the world.

But it isn't only people around us that are looking on:

Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus, identifying with our humanity, is the author and finisher.

But, we need to

- lay aside every weight
- lay aside every sin
- run the race

To lay aside every weight, is to lay aside the things of the world that can stress us and weigh us down.

1 Peter 5:6-8 (ASV) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; 7 casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour,

To lay aside every sin we need to check our thinking and bring our natural carnal nature in line with Jesus. We really don't need every shiny thing we see. We really don't need to eat everything that looks good to us.

To run the race, we not only need to prepare, but we need to be looking where we are going. To avoid the snare, the potholes, the traps that might slow us down or stop our race altogether.

Illustration: Have you ever said to yourself, "I'll go and do this xxx thing after I get this problem taken care of"? And then that problem drags on. And then that thing you were going to do never gets done. This is one of the greatest tactics of our enemy to keep us from moving forward.

Mark 4:18-19 (ASV) And others are they that are sown among the thorns; these are they that have heard the word, 19 and the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Personal Application: I want to encourage you work through the problem to do what God has called you to do. Or work around the problem, or just let it go. Is that problem really something that matters? Maybe you just need to let the problem go.

Run the race, if you aren't moving now, get going. If you are moving, keep going

Conclusion

Conclusion – 6 min

Our main text is

Acts 5:19-20 KJV But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, (20) Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

In prison, or not, we have a commission.

Now let me briefly re-state the main points:

1. Study to be a Workman
2. Put on the Armor of God
3. Avoid the Snare
4. Run the race before the Cloud of Witnesses

The message is to ...

“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”

and when they hear it, there will be a response.

God’s desire is that all would be saved.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (KJV) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Personal Application: Here is what I want you to do. Pick up your Bible and read it. Have faith in God that you will overcome. Trust the armor He has given you, and wear it well. Watch your step. And,

“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”

Pray: If you have been listening and have never accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life, simply say this prayer with me.

"Dear God,
I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.
I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died
for my sin and that you raised Him to life.
I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord,
from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.
I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

If you prayed with me, I want to seal that with a short prayer for you.

"Father,
I thank you for these that have accepted Christ today. Lead them by your
Holy Spirit to a local Church where they can learn more about you and
your plan for their life, In Jesus name, Amen

Pray: For those of you that are Christians, we have a life to live that is fruitful for God's Kingdom. Welcome the Spirit of God into your life. Listen for His voice and, pray with me now.

"Father,
I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ.
Father, I know it is your desire that I walk with you.
Thank you that you have forgiven me for anything that has separated me
from you by the blood of Jesus Christ.
My heart's desire is to walk with you, lead me now by your spirit and I will
follow.
I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

For those of you that prayed with me, would you please go to prayny.org and add a prayer request so that we can connect with you and continue to pray for the fulfillment of God's plan in your life.

"Preparation time is never wasted time." Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin

"Success is always the result of following the leading of the Holy Spirit." Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin