



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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A Pulpit in the Prison!

Truth About God: God will be with us through our trials.

Truth For My Life: I will point others to Christ in every trial.

Lesson Text: Acts 24-26

Key Passage: Acts 26:28-29 - ²⁸Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. ²⁹And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

The apostle Paul was “that guy.” You know, the one who’s always sharing the gospel with everyone around him. He had an experience that changed his life forever, and he could not help but share what God had done for him. As is true with us when we receive the Holy Spirit, something in us must testify to God’s wonder-working power. The apostle Paul always had a readiness to share his testimony. That readiness and willingness to testify of Jesus often landed Paul in prison or on trial.

Paul either caused a riot, held a revival, or served real prison time wherever he went. His boldness of speech and zeal to bring Jews and Gentiles to Jesus landed him on trial in Acts 21-26. By the start of the trial, the Jewish leaders had filed two major charges against Paul: He taught to forsake Jewish law, and he brought a Gentile into the Temple. During his trial he stood before Felix and Festus, who were both governors in Judea and then King Agrippa. After hearing Paul’s case they all agreed Paul was innocent of the charges and did nothing worthy of death or of bonds (Acts 26:30-32). However, by being a Roman citizen, Paul appealed his case to be heard by Caesar. Something in Paul was constantly looking for the next opportunity to share his testimony and the gospel with someone else. Jesus was always the focus of Paul’s life, no matter the opposition and no matter the trial.

It’s easy to be faithful when everything in life goes our way. The challenge is to be faithful when nothing is going our way. Circumstances have a way of trying to shake our trust in God. Suddenly the echo of yesterday’s sure testimony fades into the darkness of tomorrow’s unsure future. What helped Paul hold on to the promises and hope God had given him? **How could he go through all he went through and still not lose his faith and trust.** The aged apostle likely looked back over his life and knew the God who kept him through the past trials would keep him through present trials. After all, He’s the same God today and He was yesterday, and He will be the same faithful God tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8).

You don’t have to be in a courtroom to tell your story. You don’t have to be on trial to share your powerful testimony of what Jesus has done for you. Tell your testimony to your family, friends, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, and even your enemies. Being bold doesn’t mean being arrogant. The confidence we have does not come from our ability but from knowing Jesus has saved and delivered us. To be bold is to know we may experience opposition, but we press on anyway.

Could it be that sometimes the trial is not about us at all? Perhaps we are facing the trial of our lives so an opportunity arises to share our testimony. Our world may never hear it otherwise. Perhaps God is working something in each of our lives that we have yet to understand. **Your trial might simply be an opportunity for a governor, king, or coworker who is watching your life to hear how you keep your faith in tough times.** They’re waiting, watching, and listening for the testimony that is sure to come from your trial.

Are you almost persuaded, or are you altogether persuaded? That’s the question every one of us must ask ourselves. We can give the illusion that we are persuaded. We can probably all play the part well, but are we really persuaded? When we are really persuaded, our lives start to look a whole lot like Paul’s. Trials become an opportunity to share what Jesus has done for us, to share our testimony. There is a pulpit in every prison waiting on us to step up and share what God has done. The opportunity lies before us all. Walk to the podium in your trial and share your testimony. Choose to have a front-row seat to the transforming power of the Holy Ghost as He works in the lives of others.