

# Resolved to Live – As a Witness for Jesus

“...about all that Jesus began to do and teach” (Acts 1:1).

## **R<sub>2</sub>L – Resolved to Live: Believing in the Power of God’s Word**

*Acts 13:44-52*

*44 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. 46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 “For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’” 48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

Many years ago in St. Louis, a lawyer visited a Christian to transact some business. Before the two parted, the lawyer’s client said to him, “I’ve often wanted to ask you a question, but I’ve been afraid to do so.”

“What do you want to know?” asked the lawyer.

The man replied, “I’ve wondered why you’re not a Christian.”

The man hung his head, “I know enough about the Bible to realize that it says no drunkard can enter the kingdom of God; and you know my weakness!”

“You’re avoiding my questions,” continued the believer.

“Well, truthfully, I can’t recall anyone ever explaining how to become a Christian.”

Picking up a Bible, the client read some passages showing that all are under condemnation, but that Christ came to save the lost by dying on the cross for their sins. “By receiving Him as your Substitute and Redeemer,” he said, “you can be forgiven. If you’re willing to receive Jesus, let’s pray together.”

The lawyer agreed, and when it was his turn he exclaimed, “O Jesus, I am a slave to drink. One of your servants has shown me how to be saved. O God, forgive my sins and help me overcome the power of this terrible habit in my life.”

Right there that lawyer was converted. Who was this man? Some of you know this lawyer; for he was Cyrus Ingerson; or C.I. Scofield, who later edited a study Bible that bears his name. Herein is the power of the Word of God; because someone believed in the power of God’s word to transform a heart, and was willing to open the Scriptures and introduce a person to the Savior.

Beloved, there is no one, not one of your family members; not one dear friend, not one co-worker and not even one cantankerous boss or neighbor that is beyond the transforming power of God’s Word. The question for you this simply this? Do you believe that God’s Word is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes? Are you resolved to live believing in the power of God’s word? By your life, the way you live, the things you say and communicate to others, do you believe God’s Word changes people?

I do, and I can tell you this; where God’s Word is being rightly communicated, we can expect things to happen. God’s Word can impact individuals, this we know, for if you are a

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Christian, you have been impacted. But do you also believe God’s Word is powerful enough to impact an entire population. Do you believe God’s Word can impact Northwest Arkansas? Do you really?

I can tell you that the Word of God impacted the population of Pisidian Antioch as seen here in our text. As part of Paul’s first missionary journey, he and Barnabas traveled to Pisidian Antioch and went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day. Remember from the last passage we looked at, the rulers were begging for a word of exhortation (13:15). So then, Paul stood up and proclaimed nothing less than the gospel, the good news, concerning *what God has done* to defeat the impact and influence of sin, Satan and even death itself through the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ on the cross; and that forgiveness of sin is found by believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. From this relatively short sermon, hearts were radically and demonstrably changed. As Paul proclaimed this brief message, we see in our text four results that are universally true for anyone who rightly shares the Word of God. Do you want to share the Word of God rightly and in power? If you do, then how do you know if you have proclaimed God’s truth in power? Our text reveals four things that will happen as the Word of God is rightly shared with others.

## I. The Word of God proclaimed invites curiosity (44)

Looking back at verses 42-43, we see how this gets set up. We read, **“As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.”**

Let me say this again, if we are proclaiming, sharing or in any way communicating the Word of God rightly, then we can expect there to be some kind of interest; some kind of curiosity; even if only momentary, we should be speaking things that cause people to think. After Paul preached, the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles, begged him to give another message the next Sabbath. But there seems to have been others who were not willing to wait a week and they followed Paul and Barnabas, seemingly to pick their brains about who Jesus was. Paul and Barnabas urged them simply to ponder the subject of God’s grace.

Well, as you might expect, news rapidly spread through the city. Those who had heard Paul were telling other about the message and invited them to come and hear the good news for themselves on the following Saturday. Does the Word of God impact people? It did here and this brings us to verse 44 where we read, **“The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.”**

Ponder that sentence. The whole city assembled. When, if ever, have you seen a whole city gather together for anything much less for hearing the preaching of God’s Word? But here our text says that nearly the *whole* city showed up; including not only the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles who were present at the first message, but also those unbelievers who had literally never darkened the door of a Jewish house of worship. It was standing room only. Beloved, God’s Word, rightly proclaimed, invites curiosity. It does not mean everyone will believe, but they will want to hear more. But how do we know there was curiosity here?

First, the people wanted, desired to hear more. They came back. They gathered; now note this there in verse 44, **“to hear the word of the Lord.”** It was not a social event; it was not

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entertainment; it was to hear God’s word. But second, not only did those who originally hear want to hear more, but more people, who had not yet heard, simply wanted to hear.

Now, let us be careful as just because people are initially excited to hear God’s Word is the same as people being transformed by God’s Word. Our enemy, the devil, does not sit idly by when God’s Word is proclaimed. Why? Because he knows that if the Word of God is received, it will save. Do you believe that? Jesus did and Jesus also knew that the enemy would seek to dissuade people from hearing. Remember the Parable of the Sower and what happened to the first seed? In Matthew 13:3-4 we read, **“Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.”** Jesus said later that the seed pictured the Word of God and that the soil pictured the human heart. Here, the seed hit the ground but it had no effect. Why, because the *birds* came and ate it. Jesus made it clear in verse 19 what this meant by saying, **“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.”**

The devil might not be able to keep a person from hearing the Word of God, but he will do everything he can from keeping the Word of God from taking root. We need to remember this as we hear the Word of God and be careful that we are truly listening. The Word of God invites curiosity, as seen in our text. Now, let us note the second result that comes from proclaiming the gospel...

## II. The Word proclaimed invites criticism (45-47).

I was trying to think about the Rabbi of this synagogue. For years that congregation was probably pretty constant, the same families year by year, deaths, births, pretty status quo. Then one Sabbath, the whole city of Antioch shows up. A preacher’s dream right? What every congregation longs for; bursting at the seams! But as our text indicates, not everyone was happy. The gifted bible teacher Howard Hendricks said it well, “Where there is light, there are bugs!” Wherever Paul went, the more he shone the light of the gospel, the more the creepy crawling bugs of criticism came out! For the ministry of the Word not only invites curiosity, but also criticism. Let us note this criticism as it is revealed and dealt with.

**First**, notice what Luke records about how the “regulars” in this synagogue reacted. We read in verse 45, **“But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.”** Now just the week before these folks were talking about what Paul had taught, so much that word spread to everyone, including those pagan Gentiles, those dirty unbelievers. I cannot know this for certain, but it would seem that at this second meeting there may have been more Gentiles in the service than Jews! This would explain the harsh reaction of the Jews. I am not sure that we get it, but imagine that you are a Jew, for years faithfully attending your synagogue, having to put up with a few Gentile converts, but that is okay, that can be handled. Then, one Sabbath, you get to the synagogue, looking for your regular seat only to find that it is filled by George the Gentile who offers sacrifices to idols and believes in many gods. In such a Jew’s mind, his synagogue had been defiled by this mass of unclean heathens! While once looking favorably on Paul and his message, now he is concerned that his congregation is literally going to hell.

Do not think that we have progressed much over the past 2000 years. While most of you enjoy your same church routines, including, by and large, sitting the same place week after week,

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if your cantankerous neighbor, or over-bearing boss, or some unsavory Politian showed up and sat in your seat, what would you think? Luke uses the phrase, “they were filled with jealousy.” Now, I think it would wrong to think that they were jealous, that is indignant and full of heated rage just because they lost their seat in the synagogue. I think they finally understood what Paul was preaching, that forgiveness from God was available to *anyone*, Jew or Gentile alike, not on the basis of keeping the Jewish law, but on the basis of believing and trusting in what Jesus did on the cross in dying for sin. And so, they started fighting against Paul. These, who just a week earlier wanted to hear more about what Paul was saying were now **contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming**. The idea behind “contradicting” is simply to speak against, or in opposition. Paul said grace, the Jews said Law; Paul said faith alone, the Jews said by our merits. Notice that they were speaking against what Paul spoke. They did not like his teaching. What Paul was teaching was leading people away from the Jewish leaders. Thus, Paul was seen as a sheep-stealer since, taking people from their fold. Have you ever heard of pastors or churches being sheep-stealers? Seeking people from one church to be a part of theirs? Is there anything worse than a sheep-stealer? Well, know this, that taking sheep from the wolves is not sheep-stealing. It is sheep-saving. And I believe there is an important lesson and application for us here. Beloved, if people are sitting under the teaching of any pastor or teacher who does not believe and seek to rightly proclaim the Scriptures, it is not sheep-stealing to urge them to study God’s Word with you. It is evangelism. It is not sheep-stealing to urge people to leave a place of apostasy and attend a Bible-teaching church. Beloved, a preacher who does not believe and teach the Word of God is not a shepherd but is rather a dangerous wolf.

We need to know that where the Word of God is rightly proclaimed, it will invite criticism. And whether good or bad, right or wrong, some of the strongest critics of a Bible-centered ministry will be those inside the religious establishment. It should not surprise us to be criticized.

Theodore Epp was the founder of *Back to the Bible* radio ministry. As the ministry started, he was criticized, but there came a time when he *stopped* receiving critical mail. This made him happy for a time until he was convicted that he was not challenging the flock enough and so he changed his preaching. He said, “I’m afraid that when I’m pleasing everybody, I’m not pleasing the Lord and pleasing the Lord is what counts.”

So, how would Paul and Barnabas respond to their critics? Would they shrink back and compromise the truth? Notice their response in verses 46;

*46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.*

I read that and see men who did not compromise, in fact, they spoke all the more boldly the truth of God’s Word. Let us remember that when people criticize us, one of their intents is to shut you down and shut you up. If the truth is being challenged, we do not need to speak louder, but we do need to speak the Word of God more clearly. Notice what both Paul and Barnabas said that they had to speak the Word of God to the Jews first. Why? Because this was part of God’s plan.

Let me take you back once again to Acts 1:8 and Jesus’ command when He said, **“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part**

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**of the earth.”** This mission was to begin with the Jews first and then find its way to the remotest part of the earth. Paul would do this wherever he went; first going to the Jews in the synagogue and then seeking to preach the Gentiles. This is what Paul said in Romans 1:16, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”**

Why was the gospel to go to the Jews first? This is God’s plan and Israel was God’s chosen people. People often misunderstand the idea of a “chosen” people. Israel was not chosen by God as an end, but as a means to an end. God’s purpose in choosing Israel was that they would be His witnesses to the other nations, revealing the holy character of God to the end that the nations would long to know Him.

How did Israel do in this purpose? Well, in a word, they “failed.” In two words, “epic failure!” Rather than looking upon their status as “Chosen by God” for the purpose of telling others about God so that they might be saved, they took it to mean that they were special and exclusively God’s and everyone else could and should just go to hell. This over-inflated view of themselves cause them to be callous to the Word of God, not needing to hear this gospel message of salvation because as far as they were concerned, because of their heritage and because of their supposed “keeping of the Law” they had earned salvation. Notice how Paul response to this at the end of verse 46 saying, **since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.**

To “repudiate” means to reject or cast off. The Jews had thrust away the Word of God and because they would not hear it, they judged or considered themselves *unworthy* of eternal life. Thus to be unworthy of eternal life simply means that a person has rejected God’s Word. People who would rather live for self, for their own motivations, largely unconcerned by what God has prescribed as a meaningful life in His Word, these reveal that they regard themselves as unworthy of eternal life. Think about it, if all you really concern yourself with is yourself, how your job, or spouse, or school or friend affect you, make you happy or sad, thus you seek to do things your own way to get what you think you want, then why would such a person even want to go to heaven; because in heaven what matters is God and doing things God’s way? In heaven, everything is about Jesus, who He is, what He has done, what He has purposed and our jobs, our kids, our hobbies, they will not be the focus. Because the Jews refused to accept God’s plan, thus showing themselves to be unworthy of eternal life, Paul made the shocking announcement: **“We are turning to the Gentiles.”** Talk about inviting criticism!

Do you realize how shocking this statement was? Since the time of Moses, for some 1,500 years, no one with the truth turned to the Gentiles. Yes, God did saved a small number of Gentiles in the years between Moses and Paul, people like Rahab and Ruth and perhaps even the pagan Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. But this was not because the Jews had turned to the Gentiles. The story of Jonah best reveals the base Jewish thinking, that Gentiles were not worth saving. You know the story of how God had to twist Jonah’s arm to go to the Gentiles of Nineveh. And even when Jonah did finally go, after been swallowed and then vomited up by a great fish, even then he went kicking and screaming.

This was a show-stopping, conversation-halting statement, “We are turning to the Gentiles!” Jews were going to associate themselves with the Gentiles? What gave them the right to do something like this? We read in verse 47 the answer to this, **“For so the Lord has**

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**commanded us, 'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.'”**

Why would Paul and Barnabas go to the Gentiles, to unbelieving non-Jews? Because God had commanded it. Here Paul quotes from Isaiah 49:6. What a slap in the face! For what Paul was doing was reminding the Jews how they had failed to be what God had chosen Israel for, to be a light to the Gentiles. And so, since the Jews would not listen, they turned to the Gentiles.

There are a couple of lessons we need to learn about evangelism from this scene. First, believers are never to give up on those who are resistant. While Paul said he was turning to the Gentiles, this did not mean he was giving up on the Jews. As I said before, Paul, as he entered a city, would still go to the synagogue first and preach the gospel to the Jews because Paul believed in the power of God’s word to reach even those who at first resist the gospel.

The second lesson about evangelism is this; when you see someone who is receptive, give him or her your attention. The Gentiles had come out in larger numbers and were eager to hear the Word of God. As we share the gospel, look for people who are wanting to hear, to understand and to learn. It is not that we give up on the resistant, but we pour our energy into the receptive. So, where the Word of God is proclaimed, it will invite curiosity and criticism, but third...

### **III. The Word proclaimed invites conversion (48).**

*When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

Here is a verse that you ought to be familiar with, revealing both the sovereignty of God in salvation, but also the human response to God’s sovereign election. Note that we clearly have both a human as well as a divine dynamic in this verse.

First, the human dynamic. As the Gentiles heard the word of God preached, what did they do? Notice the verbs there in verse 48; they rejoiced, they glorified the word of the Lord and they believed! How did these Gentiles become Christians? They believed the truth about Jesus as proclaimed to them. When this happened, we are told they rejoiced, which means emotions were involved. I know our circle of Christianity can be a bit more stoic as we do not want the truth to be run over by emotionalism. However, when a condemned criminal finds out the judge has pardoned him, such a man will be emotional and rejoice.

When a person is truly saved, this emotion of joy turns into an exercise of action and a totally new outlook on life. Just moments before these Gentiles could care less about the Word of God, but their joy in the message caused them to glorify, to honor, to revere the Word of God. Do you want a good and simple definition of what a Christian is? It’s right here: a Christian is one who honors God’s Word. What does it mean to glorify or honor God’s Word? It means that every decision I make, how I live my life, what job I take, who I marry, how I spend my money, every decision is governed by the Word of God. The bottom line is that they believed the Word of God, this was the human dynamic; but there is a second dynamic at work; the divine dynamic.

Yes, the Gentiles believed but why did they believe? Verse 48 is clear, **and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed**. This is such a truth-packed verse when it comes to God’s work in our salvation and I would have you notice four such truths.

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First, notice that God’s appointment or choice comes before belief. God does not choose people because they first believed, but rather they believe because they were first appointed. The word “appointed” means to be previously arranged; ordained, or determined. For these believers to have been appointed means that in eternity past God recorded the names of the people He would save in His Book of Life. Before believers ever came into existence, God chose them to be the underserved objects of His favor. The idea here is that God *predestined* them; chose them to be His elect. That is the first truth we need to notice.

The second truth I would have you note is that God’s first appointing, or choosing, does not remove the responsibility of people to choose God. Again, verse 48 says, ***and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*** It is true that no one will be in heaven who God has not first appointed; but it is equally true that no one will be in heaven who does not also believe in Jesus Christ. And what is to be believed? Biblically, to be saved, a person must, *believe* in Jesus and in His death as a substitute for him on the cross. Thus, a person must choose Jesus. It has been said that God has no grandchildren. We are not born Christians because our parents were Christians or because we live in a so-called (yet obviously untrue) “Christian” nation. Each person must believe, must choose to believe on Jesus Christ. And while God must choose or appoint first, this does not nullify our responsibility to choose Jesus.

This brings us to a third truth, that God’s choice of us is the basis or reason for our choosing Jesus. By God’s design, we, like Adam in the garden, must choose to please God or to displease God. Of course, Adam chose to displease God and by doing so plunged the entire human race into enmity with God. Our wills, our ability to make choices, has been placed into bondage by sin. And so, we are born into this world with a sin attitude that says in effect that we do not want to submit to Christ. We want to follow our flesh, our desires and simply hope God will understand. This is what we call man’s depraved nature.

But the good news; the gospel is this, that God has done something for us; He has chosen a people to be saved for His own glory. And based on His choice, we who are appointed to eternal life....believe! Now some will use this as an excuse or as a charge saying, “If you believe that God chooses only some to eternal life, then there is no reason to evangelize; to tell them about salvation in Jesus.” Nothing could be further from the truth and our text makes it clear. The apostle Paul did evangelism why? Because he believed in election. This is the reason why Paul preached the gospel, even in light of all the opposition and criticism he received, because He knew God would save people.

And this brings us to the fourth truth about God’s work in salvation; namely that it is God’s choice that serves as our motivation to do evangelism in any circumstances. Think about it, if I believe that a person’s salvation were purely of man’s own choice of God and I am in a hostile environment, why would I share Jesus there; I would go and find people who are more “friendly”. Paul communicated this attitude to Timothy just before he was put to death saying in 2 Timothy 2:8-10;

***8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.***

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The point is that salvation must contain both of these dynamics to be true; God must appoint people to eternal life and man must believe. But wherever God’s Word is rightly proclaimed, it will bring about conversion. Let note the last point of our text...

## IV. The Word proclaimed invites conflict (49-52).

As we look at the final verses of this chapter, we see that proclaiming the Word of God invites conflict. Here there are two things we can know.

**First**, sharing the gospel with anyone, anywhere is a **battle!** If we are sharing the words of eternal life, know for certain that you are engaged in spiritual warfare. While the war has already been won by Jesus, until He comes again to set up His kingdom on earth, we will be engaged in the cleanup battles with the evil one. While the devil is defeated, he does not give up without a fight. Remember that because of sin, Satan has made a claim on the souls of men. Those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ have been purchased, bought back from this slavery. In other words, Satan is losing ground. When we communicate the gospel and people respond, we are reclaiming souls for Jesus.

When an army is in battle, there are at least two things they will be seeking to do. One is that they will seek to advance. Notice what happens according to verse 49, **And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.** Not only had the Word of God spread in Pisidian Antioch but also through the whole region. How did this happen? It would seem that these new converts took the message of Jesus and told it to others. This makes sense, for if someone really appreciates something, he will tell others. Thus, the power of the Word of God advanced.

But an army does more than just advances, they also attack. John Wesley would ask the young men he had sent out to preach two questions upon their return: “Has anyone been converted?” and “Did anyone get mad?” If the answer was “No,” he told them he did not think the Lord had called them to preach the Gospel, and sent them about their business. Beloved, when the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, people HATE it! What do they HATE? They either HATE their sin and repents or they HATE being told about sin. Sir Isaac Newton laid down this axiom saying, “For every action there’s an equal and opposite...*reaction*.” Notice there in verses 50-51 the reaction in Pisidian Antioch: **50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.**

When they could not stop Paul directly, we learn that the Jews sought to incite others against him. Why did they incite “women of prominence.” We need to understand that the Jewish religion was extremely helpful for women who lived in this time. The bible commentator, William Barclay gave some insight, “Family life was rapidly breaking down. The worst sufferers were women. The Jewish religion preached a purity of ethic and cleanness of life. Round the synagogues gathered many women, often of high social position, who found in this teaching just what they longed for. Many of these women became proselytes; still more were God-fearers.” What the Jewish leaders were doing was recruiting help. The idea is that they were appealing to what their teaching had done for these women, saying in essence, “Have we not treated you well? Have we not treated women better than the rest of the culture? We will promise to



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continue but if you instead listen to this renegade, cult-leader, Paul, who knows what will happen to women’s rights in Pisidian Antioch?” Fear-mongering. And with this tactic, they were able to run Paul and Barnabas out of town.

Does this mean that Paul and Barnabas lost the battle? Not at all, for not only are we in a battle, but next, we, who are proclaimers of God’s Word, believing it is the power of God unto salvation are most blessed of God. Notice verse 52, **And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.** Those who are in this battle have two things the world can never take away. First, there is joy,, that peaceful knowledge that regardless of what happens around us, we are right with God because of Jesus; and second, we have the Holy Spirit. In other words, while this is spiritual warfare, we are on the winning side and have the blessing of God’s joy and the benefit of the presence of His Spirit; the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead; the same Spirit the created the universe is with us!

I have shared this story before, but let me close with this. One time as the great evangelist D.L. Moody was attending a convention in Indianapolis on the topic of mass evangelism, he asked his song leader Ira Sankey to meet him at 6 o’clock one evening at a certain street corner. When Sankey arrived, Mr. Moody asked him to stand on a box and sing – because this guy could sing. Once a crowd had gathered, Moody spoke briefly and then invited the people to follow him to the nearby convention hall. Soon the auditorium was filled with spiritually hungry people, and the great evangelist preached the gospel to them. Then the convention delegates began to arrive. Moody stopped preaching and said, “Now we must close, as the brethren of the convention wish to come and discuss the topic, ‘How to reach the masses.’” Moody had graphically illustrated the difference between talking about doing something and going out and doing it.

Beloved, will you be resolved to live believing in the power of God to save people. If you truly believe, you will do more than just talk about it, you will go out and do it. Pray to God and then make opportunities to speak to your family or friends, your co-workers or fellow students about Jesus and believe in the power of God to change hearts.

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*Soli Deo Gloria*

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