

## **Speaking All the Promises of Life**

1. After a Brief Respite, the Persecution Returns (17-18).
2. Apostles Receive a *Supernatural Assist* to Stay on Mission (19-21a).
3. Fickle Masses Help Here, Hinder Elsewhere (21b-26).
4. Christ Is Orchestrating the Growth of His Kingdom.

Jesus had commissioned His people to serve as His witnesses. When they are imprisoned and kept from doing that, He sent His angel to release them and send them back to speak all the promises of this Life. This mission is central to who we are and what we are to do as His witnesses. How are you demonstrating faith in Christ today by both living and speaking all the promises of Life?

## John 6: 51, 60 – 63

<sup>51</sup> “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

<sup>60</sup> Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? <sup>62</sup> *What* then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? <sup>63</sup> **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

**Question #26:** How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

**Answer:** The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, *by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.*

**Question #31:** What is effectual calling?

**Answer:** Effectual calling is the work of God’s Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel.

## Acts—Series Overview

### ***The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power***

*Acts* records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Time for a jail break! For what purpose does the angel of the Lord release the Apostles from jail? What do they do as a result? How does this fit with the flow of Acts? Does God always deliver His people from persecution? Why does He do so here?

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## Sunday Morning

**READ Acts 5:17-26; John 6:26-71; Acts 1:8.** DISCUSS, What does Jesus do through His Church? How can these same testimonies to His power also give us false hope? What might that look like? Who is the source of our wisdom, might, and riches? PRAY for God to equip us for His mission for us to glorify Him through life-giving work.

## Sunday Evening

*In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring repentance and renewal to us at FCCW and throughout His Church.*

## Monday

**READ Acts 5:17-26; Luke 1:38; 2:29.** DISCUSS, What is the word/message/promise in these passages? To what does it refer? How are we to speak these same promises of Life? PRAY for the congregation of FCCW that we might boldly proclaim the promises of Life in word and action. Ask Christ to embolden us.

## Tuesday

**READ Acts 5:17-26; John 12:44-50.** DISCUSS, How are we to speak? How did Christ speak? Based on what? How does the Holy Spirit help us to do this? What does over-reliance on those things look like? PRAY, “Lord Jesus, thank You that Your loving-kindness for us is never-ending. There will never be a time when You fail us or desert us. Help us to not elevate anyone else to Your place.”

## Wednesday

**READ Acts 5:17-26; Matthew 16:13-27.** DISCUSS, Did Jesus tell His disciples that while He would suffer, they didn't need to worry because He was calling them to comfort? What did He tell them to expect? What is He doing with His Church? Why? SERVE. If you are able, make a sign for the FCCW Hope Garden! PRAY, “Lord, You have promised to build Your Church. Teach us to trust You as we take up our cross and follow You.”

## Thursday

**READ Acts 5:17-26; 17:8; 13; 21:27; Mark 15:11.** DISCUSS, What role does the crowd play in all of these texts? Is God or his plan hindered because of how the people react? PRAY, “Lord, teach us to trust You and to see Your wisdom as so much greater than our own.”

## Friday

**READ Acts 5:17-26; John 6:26-71; Acts 1:8.** How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE, for Christ has graciously called you to participate in His mission! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

## Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

**READ Acts 5:1-42.** Invite others to watch the *live-stream service* with you tomorrow. Pray for Christ to grant us boldness in following Him.

# Acts 1:8

Jesus said, “... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”