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FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT REQUIRES HOLDING AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE (ACTS 20:22-24).

²² “And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what I will encounter there, ²³ except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me. ²⁴ But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.”

FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT REQUIRES TRUSTING THE LORD’S WILL (ACTS 21:10-14).

¹⁰ After we had been there for several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ He came to us, took Paul’s belt, tied his own feet and hands, and said, “This is what the Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him over to the Gentiles.’” ¹² When we heard this, both we and the local people pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul replied, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” ¹⁴ Since he would not be persuaded, we said no more except, “The Lord’s will be done.”

FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT REQUIRES PROCLAIMING JESUS BOLDLY (ACTS 22:11-21).

¹¹ “Since I couldn’t see because of the brightness of the light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and went into Damascus. ¹² Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, who had a good reputation with all the Jews living there, ¹³ came and stood by me and said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight.’ And in that very hour I looked up and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our ancestors has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the words from his mouth, ¹⁵ since you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now, why are you delaying? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’ ¹⁷ After I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him telling me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹ But I said, ‘Lord, they know that in synagogue after synagogue I had those who believed in you imprisoned and beaten. ²⁰ And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I stood there giving approval and guarding the clothes of those who killed him.’ ²¹ He said to me, ‘Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

