

## Ac. 24, "When I Find it...", By Rev. Paul Hudson

Acts: Church Afire! Summary, Daily Devotional, & Study Questions, 6/14/26

# Summary

## Big Idea

**The unyielding spread of the gospel demonstrates God's unstoppable plan and the Holy Spirit's call for conviction and repentance.**

The sermon's foundational claim is that the final chapters of Acts demonstrate the unstoppable nature of the gospel in the face of worldly opposition. Through Paul's trials under Roman and Jewish leaders, Luke reveals that the gospel's spread was divinely ordained and unstoppable despite legal accusations. This narrative underscores that any opposition is rooted in spiritual rebellion rather than legal standing. Paul's journey and defense illustrate the gospel's commitment to outreach, as seen in his interactions with Felix and the recognition of his innocence amidst accusations. Luke's account targets Theophilus, a potentially high-ranking official, intending to clear the Christian movement of insurrectionist allegations.

Paul's testimony before Felix becomes a profound example of the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing conviction and exposing the state of human hearts. This sermon challenges the modern church to embrace the true nature of conviction—intended to illuminate wrongdoing and guide towards repentance, not condemnation. The Holy Spirit's role is highlighted as essential in prompting individuals to acknowledge sin and seek righteousness. Paul's interaction with Felix warns of the danger of postponing spiritual response for convenience. The sermon's call is for believers to welcome the Spirit's gentle correction, allowing it to lead to transformative change and eternal fruit.

## Keys and Themes

### 1. Acts' End: A Testament to Gospel's Power

The final chapters of Acts underscore the intended universality and unstoppable nature of the gospel. By detailing Paul's trials, Luke illustrates how, despite opposition, no earthly power can hinder the gospel's spread because it is spiritually ordained by God. The narrative decisively shows that any legal accusations against the gospel are unfounded, rooting true opposition in spiritual rebellion. This is key in persuading readers that Christianity was not a criminal rebellion but a divine movement, validating its legitimacy and divine backing.

### 2. Paul's Defense and Conviction

Paul's defense before Felix is marked by conviction and bravery, devoid of deceit or flattery. Contrastingly, Tertullus uses manipulation in an attempt to sway Felix. Paul's straightforward acknowledgment of Felix's rule is a subtle indictment, likely sparking conviction in Felix's heart. This exchange illustrates the significance of

truth-telling imbued with the Holy Spirit, which can bring about conviction even in hardened hearts. It underscores the essential role of conviction within Christian witness, standing firm in truth against corrupt power.

### **3. The Constructive Role of Conviction**

This sermon emphasizes the transformation of understanding conviction as a vital, positive, and constructive process. The Holy Spirit convicts by bringing light to wrongdoing, leading believers to recognize their need for change. This stand is counter to the cultural perception where conviction is seen negatively. The church is encouraged to preach convicting messages that lovingly guide toward repentance and transformation, aligning with the Holy Spirit's purpose of producing fruits of love, joy, and peace, replacing destructive behaviors with life-giving virtues.

### **4. Felix: A Case Study in Spiritual Delay**

Felix becomes an example of the dangers of delaying spiritual action for convenience. Despite being intrigued by Paul's words and experiencing fear—indicative of conviction—Felix postpones his response, favoring immediate convenience over transformative change. This serves as a warning on the consequences of hesitating when faced with divine nudges. The urgency of responding to the Holy Spirit's prompts is stressed, portraying procrastination as a spiritual jeopardy that can lead to missed opportunities for salvation and growth.

### **5. The Spirit's Gentle Call to Repentance**

The sermon invites believers to see the Holy Spirit's conviction as an invitation to transformation rather than judgment. Conviction is depicted as an act of divine love, encouraging repentance and alignment with God's righteousness. This understanding is intended to alter the believer's reaction to conviction—transforming it from resistance to receptivity. Believers are called to embrace this divine guidance, recognizing that it comes from love and patience, steering them towards spiritual maturity and eternal fruit. The Spirit's call is fundamentally about drawing near, not pushing away.

# Daily Devotional

## Sunday — Acts' End: A Testament to Gospel's Power

Scripture: Acts 28:31

The book of Acts concludes with an emphasis on the unstoppable spread of the gospel. Despite facing trials and imprisonments, Paul remains steadfast, proclaiming the kingdom of God with boldness and without hindrance. This narrative demonstrates that the gospel goes beyond cultural and geographical boundaries, intended for all people. It affirms the divine authority behind its mission, ensuring that no earthly power can thwart its progress. This reminder encourages us to trust in God's sovereignty and remain devoted to sharing His message, knowing that opposition, often rooted in spiritual rebellion, cannot prevail against His plans.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. How does the unstoppable nature of the gospel inspire your faith?*
  - 2. In what ways can you participate in spreading this unstoppable gospel today?*
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## Monday — Paul's Defense and Conviction

Scripture: Acts 24:10

Paul's response to Felix reflects the power of conviction and the importance of standing in truth without succumbing to deception or flattery. Despite facing a ruthless ruler, Paul remains calm and truthful, unafraid to speak openly about his faith. This encounter highlights how the Holy Spirit empowers believers to speak with conviction, challenging corrupted systems. Paul's integrity serves as a powerful example for us to emulate in our own defense of the faith, encouraging us to share truth with courage and clarity, trusting that God uses our words to impact others.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. What does Paul's defense teach you about the role of truth in witness?*
  - 2. How can you maintain integrity when facing opposition?*
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## Tuesday — The Constructive Role of Conviction

Scripture: John 16:7-11

Conviction by the Holy Spirit is meant to be a positive force, highlighting wrongs and guiding us towards righteousness. Often misunderstood as judgment, true conviction is a loving call to transformation. It aligns our hearts with God's will, encouraging repentance and spiritual growth. This understanding reshapes our reception of challenging messages, inviting us to embrace them as opportunities for renewal rather than rejection. It calls us to preach and receive convicting messages rooted in love and aimed at producing the fruits of the Spirit, making us more like Christ.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. In what areas might the Spirit be convicting you to grow?*
- 2. How can you respond to conviction as an opportunity for spiritual growth?*

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## **Wednesday — Felix: A Case Study in Spiritual Delay**

Scripture: Acts 24:25

Felix's encounter with Paul illustrates the peril of delaying spiritual action in favor of convenience. Though convicted by Paul's words, his choice to postpone addressing his spiritual state proves detrimental. Felix's example serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us that the call to repentance requires timely responses. The Spirit's prompting may not always coincide with our schedules, and pushing aside these moments risks missing essential transformations. This challenge beckons us to prioritize spiritual responsiveness over comfort, trusting that true obedience leads to eternal reward.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. Have you ever delayed a spiritual decision due to inconvenience?*
- 2. Why is timely response to the Spirit's prompting important?*

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## **Thursday — The Spirit's Gentle Call to Repentance**

Scripture: Romans 2:4

Divine conviction is an expression of God's kindness, calling us to repentance. Its purpose is not to accuse or shame but to illuminate our need for change and open our hearts to God's grace. Feeling the Spirit's nudge is an invitation to deeper intimacy with God, prompting us to align more closely with His righteousness. Turning towards conviction with an open heart leads to spiritual maturity, buoyed by the fruits of the Spirit. Accepting this gentle call helps us move from guilt to growth, enhancing our walk with Christ and strengthening our commitment to His path.

*Reflect Questions:*

1. *How does understanding conviction as an expression of God's kindness change your response to it?*
2. *What steps can you take to embrace the Spirit's gentle call to repentance?*

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## **Friday — Spiritual Rebellion and Resistance**

Scripture: Acts 24:5-9

The reaction of the Jewish leaders towards Paul symbolizes a deeper spiritual rebellion. They resist the gospel's call because it challenges their established norms and exposes their need for transformation. This highlights how spiritual rebellion often masquerades as legitimate opposition. The challenge for us is to discern when resistance to the gospel's transformative power becomes a spiritual blockage in our lives. By identifying and confronting these resistances, we are better able to embrace God's truth and allow His message to take root within us. The call is to examine where our hearts might resist change and lay these before God.

*Reflect Questions:*

1. *Where might spiritual rebellion be hiding in your life?*
2. *How can you confront personal resistance to spiritual growth?*

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## **Saturday — Embracing Divine Transformation**

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14

Paul's persistence, despite trials, exemplifies a life devoted to transformation through Christ. His enduring faith encourages us to press on toward the goal of spiritual maturity, not becoming complacent or content with where we are. True transformation requires dedication to moving forward, even amidst discomfort or challenge. Like Paul, we are called to embrace the ongoing work of the Spirit, committing to growth that reflects God's glory. Our journey with God is one of continual reshaping, where we align more closely with His purposes each day, pressing forward in faith toward the prize.

*Reflect Questions:*

1. *What steps are you taking toward spiritual maturity?*
2. *How can you remain focused on the goal of transformation?*

# Study Questions

*Read Ac. 24 and listen to the Sermon "When I Find it Convenient," 6/14/26*

## **Observation**

- 1) What charges did Tertullus bring against Paul?
- 2) How did Paul defend himself against these charges?
- 3) What did Felix say after listening to Paul's defense?
- 4) How long did Paul remain in prison under Felix's rule?

## **Interpretation**

- 1) Why did Tertullus flatter Felix before presenting the charges?
- 2) What does Paul's response to Felix reveal about his character?
- 3) How did the Holy Spirit's role of conviction affect Paul's interaction with Felix?
- 4) What was the underlying reason for the Jewish leaders' accusations against Paul?

## **Application**

- 1) How can we recognize the constructive work of conviction in our lives?
- 2) In what ways might we be tempted to delay spiritual obedience due to inconvenience?
- 3) How can we respond to the Holy Spirit's conviction with openness and repentance?
- 4) What practical steps can we take to avoid the trap of seeking convenience over spiritual growth?