

LIVING

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BY ANDY FROST



LIVING ACTS

Introduction

Jesus has ascended into heaven and the stage is set.

What follows in Acts is not a quiet epilogue but the beginning of a remarkable story. Ordinary people become an extraordinary, international movement. The world is turned upside down and inside out. There is persecution and prison, courage and costly obedience, angels and healings, questions and miracles. This is the story of the church.

And it is not finished.

Acts invites us to see that the same Spirit who moved then is still at work now. The same God who spoke, led, and empowered those first believers still speaks, leads, and empowers his people today. As you read, you may begin to notice that this is not just their story. It is ours as well.

Over the next 28 days, you are invited to walk slowly through the book of Acts, one chapter at a time. Each day, read the chapter, spend time with the reflection, and then respond with the prayer and the challenge. The aim is not to rush, but to notice. Not simply to learn, but to be shaped.

The daily challenges are there to help you think and live more missionally, to look for opportunities to join in with what God is already doing around you. If you miss a day or find a challenge difficult, do not be discouraged. This is an invitation, not a test.

This is the story of Acts. And the story continues today...

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ACTS 1

The book of Acts doesn't begin with a bang. It begins with waiting.

Jesus is alive. The resurrection has happened. The disciples are buzzing with questions and energy. Surely now is the moment to act. Surely this is when everything finally kicks off. But Jesus does something unexpected. He tells them to stop. To wait. To stay put until the Holy Spirit comes.

The vision he gives them is enormous. They will be his witnesses, starting in Jerusalem and stretching to the very ends of the earth. These are ordinary people. Not leaders, not strategists, not global thinkers. Yet Jesus entrusts them with a world-changing mission.

Then he ascends into heaven and the disciples stand staring into the sky so long that angels have to interrupt them. This story is moving forward, but not yet. First comes waiting.

They return to the upper room. They pray. They search the Scriptures. They find a replacement for Judas. And then they wait, praying. Not just for hours, not just for a day, but for ten long days. No instructions. No visible progress. Just obedience.

Acts 1 confronts our impatience. We want to rush into action, especially when the vision feels urgent. But God is more concerned with who we are becoming than how quickly we move. Waiting in this instance is not wasted time. It is preparation.

The disciples knew the task ahead was impossible without God's power. The Holy Spirit was not an optional extra. He was essential. The power Jesus promised was explosive, life-changing power, the kind that turns ordinary people into bold witnesses.

Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is not to act, but to wait. And to pray. To trust God's timing. To let him do the deep work before the visible work begins.

Challenge

Today, deliberately slow down. Create space to wait before God, even if it feels uncomfortable or unproductive. Resist the urge to rush ahead.

Prayer

Jesus, teach me to wait.

Help me trust your timing and depend on your Spirit, not my own strength. Prepare me for what you are calling me into.

Amen.

ACTS 2

This Pentecost was meant to be predictable. Another festival. Another crowded city. Another familiar routine. But God had other plans.

A violent wind fills the house. Fire appears. Ordinary people begin speaking in languages they have never learned. Prayer spills into the streets. What looks like chaos is actually God breaking in.

The Holy Spirit does not stay safely contained in a room. He pushes the disciples out into public space. Into noise. Into confusion. Into everyday life. Some people are amazed. Others mock. That often happens when God moves.

Then Peter stands up. Not polished. Not rehearsed. But filled with the Spirit. He tells the story of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection, and he invites people to respond. And they do – 3000 lives are changed in a single day.

But the story does not stop with a moment. A new way of life is formed. They gather. They learn. They pray. They eat together. They share what they have. Faith is something lived out in community.

Acts 2 reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the real driving force of the church. Not structures. Not strategies. Not comfort. God sometimes disrupts what feels safe in order to create something deeper and truer.

The Spirit still moves today. Still surprises. Still invites us into a life that is shared, generous and centred on Jesus. The question is not whether God is at work, but whether we are willing to step into the adventure.

Challenge

Today, pause and invite the Holy Spirit to lead you, even if it means stepping beyond what feels familiar or controlled. How can you punctuate your daily routine with the simple prayer, “Holy Spirit, lead me....”

Prayer

Holy Spirit, come.

Interrupt my routines and reorder my life. Lead me into the adventure of following Jesus.

Amen.

ACTS 3

Peter and John are on their way to the temple. It's an ordinary day and this is part of their routine. But then everything changes with an interruption.

A man who has never walked is sitting by the gate, asking for money. He is used to being ignored. Used to being overlooked. Used to small change landing in his hands. Peter stops. He looks straight at him and says, "Look at us." Not because Peter wants attention, but because something different is about to happen.

"I do not have silver or gold," Peter says.

That must have sounded like a let down.

But then comes the unexpected. "What I do have, I give you." In the name of Jesus, the man stands. Strength floods his legs. He walks, then leaps, then praises God.

This miracle does not happen inside the temple. It happens en route. God is no longer confined to sacred buildings or special moments. The presence of God now moves with his people into everyday life.

The crowd is amazed, but Peter is quick to point them away from himself. This is not human power. This is Jesus, alive and at work. Healing becomes a signpost, pointing to a greater reality.

Acts 3 asks us an uncomfortable question. When people encounter us, what do they see? Do they see the superficial or do they see evidence of God at work?

We may feel we lack resources, influence or answers. But in Jesus, we carry more than we realise. Sometimes God uses what we have, not what we wish we had.

Challenge

Today, look out for an interruption. Whoever it is, be present with them, pray silently, and offer what God has placed in you.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to see people, not interruptions.

Use what I have to bring your life and hope into ordinary moments.

Amen.

ACTS 4

Not everyone celebrates what God is doing. As Peter and John speak about Jesus, they are arrested. Authority pushes back. Power feels threatened. This is what happens when resurrection life collides with systems built on control.

Peter and John spend the night in prison. The next day, they stand before the authorities. These are the people with power, status and influence. Yet Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, speaks with extraordinary boldness. He talks about Jesus, about his death and resurrection, and he refuses to pull his punches.

The authorities are stunned. These men are uneducated, ordinary and yet fearless. They try to silence them with threats, but it doesn't work. Peter and John reply that they cannot stop speaking about what they have seen and heard.

When they return to the other believers, they do not pray for safety. They do not ask for an easier path. They pray for boldness. And God answers. The place where they meet shakes, and they are filled again with the Holy Spirit.

Courage in Acts does not come from personality or confidence. It comes from knowing that Jesus is alive. The early church discovers that bold faith is born in prayer and sustained in community.

Acts 4 invites us to ask ourselves what we pray for when pressure comes – comfort or courage?

Challenge

Today, take one small but intentional step of courage in living out or speaking about your faith. Maybe tell someone that you're a Christian or drop into conversation something about church.

Prayer

God, fill me with your Spirit.

Give me courage to live and speak for you, whatever the cost.

Amen.

LIVING ACTS



Acts 5 opens with a story that stops us in our tracks. Ananias and Sapphira appear generous, but their hearts tell a different story. They want the reputation of faithfulness without the reality of it. They lie to the community and to God, and the consequences are severe.

This moment reminds the early church of something easy to forget. God is holy. This new movement cannot be built on pretence or performance. Hypocrisy threatens it from the inside, and God acts to protect its integrity.

Fear and awe sweep through the believers. Not terror, but reverence. A renewed awareness that this is not their project, but God's.

And the story does not end in heaviness. The apostles continue to preach boldly. People are healed. Prison doors open. Opposition grows, but so does the movement.

Acts 5 holds two truths together – God is powerful and God is holy.

Grace is not casual. Following Jesus is not a performance. It is a wholehearted life of truth and integrity.

This chapter challenges us to examine what lies beneath the surface. God is not impressed by appearances, but he delights in honesty. A holy church is not a perfect one, but a truthful one, shaped by reverence and obedience.

Challenge

As we join Jesus in his mission, today ask God to search your heart. Be honest about anything hidden and choose integrity in one clear action. This may well provoke questions from others that may lead to an opportunity to share about your faith.

Prayer

Holy God, keep my heart true.
Help me live honestly before you,
shaped by both reverence and grace.
Amen.

ACTS 5

ACTS 6

Growth is exciting, but it brings pressure. As the Jesus movement expands, cracks begin to show. Some widows are being overlooked, and murmuring spreads through the community. This is not a crisis of belief, but of care. And if left unaddressed, it could quietly damage everything.

The apostles respond with humility and wisdom. They recognise a simple truth – they cannot do everything. Instead of grabbing more responsibility, they clarify their calling. Prayer and the ministry of the word must remain their focus. This is not about status, but about being faithful to their calling.

Seven people are chosen to serve, known not just for competence, but for being full of the Spirit and wisdom. Practical care is revealed as spiritual work. Administration and organisation matter to God. When everyone plays their part, the whole body thrives.

Acts 6 invites us to ask searching questions. What has God truly called me to do? And just as importantly, what has he not called me to do?

Stephen is appointed as a deacon. He is not an Apostle. He is to serve tables. But his story reminds us that our roles do not limit what God can do through us. Though his role may seem less important in human eyes, he lives with bold faith and God moves through him.

Where has God positioned you? Which roles do you occupy?

Discovering your calling does not guarantee comfort or safety, but it does bring clarity. Acts 6 calls us to find the place where our gifts and God's purposes meet, and then to trust God with the outcome.

Challenge

Today, think through some of the roles God has given you. What does it look like to live like Stephen “full of God’s grace and power” in that role?

Prayer

Lord, give me wisdom to recognise my calling.

Help me to let go of what you have not asked me to carry, and to serve with grace and power where you have placed me.

Amen.

W

Stephen is dragged before the authorities, accused and alone. He could defend himself. He could soften his words. Instead, he tells a story. The story of a God who refuses to be contained. A God who keeps moving, even when his people resist.

Stephen traces the journey from Abraham to Moses to the prophets, showing a pattern. Again and again, God sends messengers. Again and again, they are misunderstood, opposed and rejected. His words expose something uncomfortable. The problem is not that God has changed, but that people resist what God is doing.

No one comes to his defence. Faithfulness here is lonely. And then the anger explodes. Stephen is dragged outside the city and stoned.

But this is not a story of defeat.

As the stones fall, Stephen sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He is not abandoned. He prays forgiveness for those killing him, echoing the words of Jesus himself.

Acts 7 reminds us that standing for truth can be costly. Following Jesus does not always lead to safety or applause. But God meets his people with peace that runs deeper than pain and hope that reaches beyond death.

Stephen's faithfulness plants seeds he will never see grow. One of those watching is Saul. God is at work, even in the darkest moments.

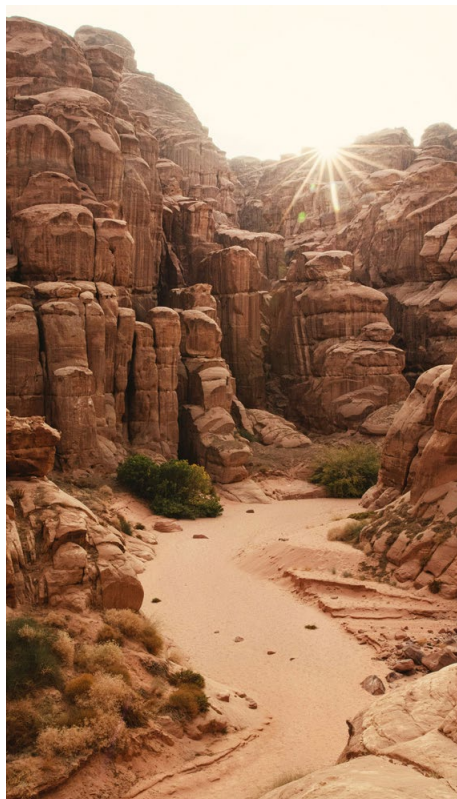
Challenge

Today, is there a way you can purposefully do something uncomfortable that communicates the gospel? Whatever you choose to do, trust God with the outcome.

Prayer

Jesus, give me courage to stand for truth and grace to love, even when it costs me.

Amen.



ACTS 8

Stephen's death triggers a wave of persecution. Believers are scattered from Jerusalem, their home and their safety. What looks like chaos is actually movement. The gospel was meant to go to the ends of the earth and it is this horrifying incident that helps it do just that.

Philip heads to Samaria, a place shaped by division and suspicion. Yet joy breaks out. People are healed. Lives are changed. The Spirit is clearly at work. God is crossing boundaries that once felt fixed.

Then comes a surprising instruction. In the middle of revival, God sends Philip to a desert road. Away from the crowds. Away from momentum. There, Philip meets a single man, an Ethiopian official, reading Scripture and searching for meaning.

Philip listens. He explains. He points to Jesus. The man believes and is baptised immediately. One life, one conversation, one obedient moment.

Acts 8 reminds us that God is not impressed by numbers alone. He works through crowds and through individuals. He reaches the overlooked, the outsider, the unexpected. No one is beyond his reach.

The gospel refuses to stay contained. It moves beyond comfort, beyond culture, beyond prejudice. The question is whether we are willing to follow the Spirit wherever he leads.

Challenge

Today, be attentive to someone you might normally overlook. Listen well and respond with kindness and faith as God prompts you.

Prayer

God, lead me beyond my comfort and assumptions.
Help me follow your Spirit and love people as you do.
Amen.

ACTS 9

Two stories are moving towards each other. They do not look like they belong in the same chapter, but God is about to bring them together.

Saul is powerful and dangerous. He is convinced he is right, and that certainty fuels his violence as he persecutes Jesus followers. But on the road to Damascus, there is a blinding light and a voice from heaven, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" In a moment, Saul is stripped of control. Blind, silent, and led by the hand, he must wait.

Meanwhile, Ananias is praying. He is not famous. He is not influential. He knows Saul's reputation and has every reason to be afraid. Yet God speaks to him. "Go." No long explanation. Just an invitation to trust.

This is where the stories collide. The persecutor meets the persecuted. Ananias lays hands on Saul and calls him brother. Grace comes before proof. As he prays, Saul's sight is restored, and a new life begins.

Acts 9 reminds us that God works through both major and minor characters. Saul's transformation will shape history, but it begins with Ananias making himself available. God often speaks to us not just for our own sake, but so that we might speak life into someone else's story.

The question is not how important we feel, but whether we are willing. Today, whose story might collide with yours?

Challenge

Today, is there someone who has mocked your faith that you are reticent to engage with again? Prayerfully discern whether it's time to re-engage with them. Be attentive to the questions they may be asking.

Prayer

Lord, make me available to you.

Help me listen when you speak and obey when you call, trusting you to use my life.

Amen.

ACTS 10

Peter thinks he understands how this works. He has followed Jesus, seen miracles, and watched the church grow. And yet God is about to stretch him beyond what feels familiar or safe.

As Peter prays, a vision unfolds. A sheet filled with animals, once considered unclean, is lowered from heaven. “Kill and eat,” God says. Peter refuses. Not once but three times. His faith has boundaries, and God gently but firmly begins to dismantle them.

At the same time, Cornelius is praying. A Roman centurion. A Gentile and therefore an outsider. Yet he is searching for God, and God responds. Their stories edge closer towards each other.

When Peter steps into Cornelius’ home, centuries of division are crossed. As Peter begins to speak about Jesus, the Holy Spirit interrupts again. The Spirit is poured out on everyone present. No waiting. No barriers. No hierarchy.

Peter is astonished. God shows no favouritism. He discovers that the gift of the Spirit is not limited by background, culture or history. Those once considered outsiders are welcomed fully into the family of God.

Acts 10 challenges us to examine our assumptions. Where might God be asking us to see other people differently? The Spirit is still breaking boundaries, still welcoming the outsider, still inviting us into a wider, braver vision of God’s grace.

Challenge

Today, notice any assumptions you make about others. Choose to prayerfully cross potential boundaries – maybe with a neighbour, a colleague or someone you haven’t been in contact with for a while.

Prayer

God, stretch my heart and my understanding.

Help me see people as you see them and join you in welcoming all.

Amen.

ACTS 11

Every good story needs people who know how to build bridges. In Acts 11, that person is Barnabas.

By now, rumours are spreading fast. Peter has been eating with non-Jews. Gentiles are receiving the Holy Spirit. For some, this feels exciting. For others, deeply unsettling. The church in Jerusalem wants to know what is really going on, so they send Barnabas.

They choose him carefully. Barnabas is trusted. He is a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. His name means 'son of encouragement', and he lives up to it. When he arrives in Antioch, he does not criticise or control. He recognises the grace of God already at work and rejoices.

Antioch is a busy, diverse city where cultures collide. Here, something new is forming. For the first time, followers of Jesus are called Christians, 'little Christs'. Not because of a programme or a strategy, but because their lives reflect Jesus.

Barnabas understands that movements grow through relationships. He brings Paul out of obscurity, invites him into leadership, and helps shape this growing church. Barnabas does not need the spotlight. He is confident enough to release others.

Acts 11 challenges us to consider our part in God's story. Are we people who encourage, connect and affirm what God is doing? Do we recognise grace in unexpected places?

The church grows best when people of character choose encouragement over control, and humility over recognition.

Challenge

Today, intentionally encourage someone. It could be a fellow Christian or someone who is not yet following Jesus. Affirm what you see God doing in them.

Prayer

God, shape my character.

Help me recognise your grace and become someone who encourages and builds others up.

Amen.

ACTS 12

Acts 12 is confusing. It doesn't tie things up neatly. James and then Peter are arrested. James is killed. Peter is rescued. Both are faithful. Both love Jesus. Yet their stories unfold very differently.

Herod executes James, one of the twelve. The church grieves. Then Peter is arrested. The same fate seems certain. The believers pray, not with confidence, but desperation. And in the middle of the night, God acts. An angel appears. Chains fall off. Prison doors open. Peter walks free.

When he arrives at the house where people are praying, they cannot believe it. Shocked, Rhoda leaves Peter at the gate. The praying church community argues that it can't be true. But it is.

This story is wonderfully honest. These are not spiritual superheroes. They pray, doubt, grieve and hope – often all at once.

The hardest question remains. Why Peter and not James? Acts 12 does not answer it. Instead, it shows us a faith that perseveres without full understanding. John, James' brother, does not walk away from Jesus. He stays. He keeps trusting. He keeps following.

The movement continues. Kings cannot stop it. Prisons cannot contain it. Even unanswered questions do not derail it. Acts 12 reminds us that faith is not about having every answer, but choosing to remain faithful when we do not.

Challenge

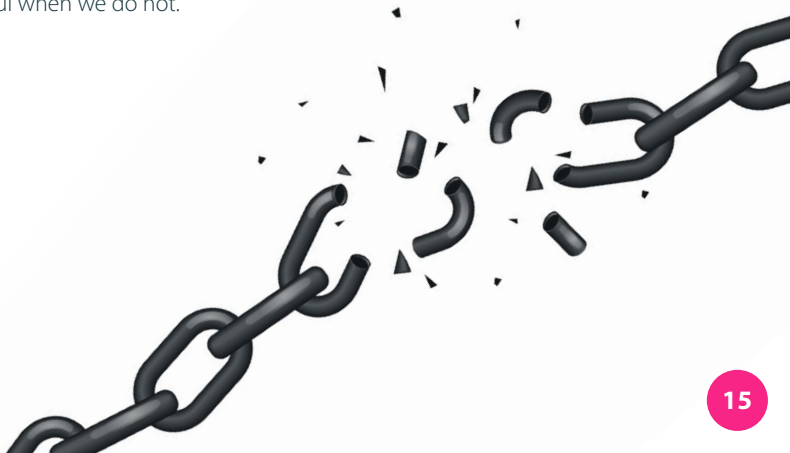
Is there somebody that you have shared your faith with a while ago and it felt hopeless? Maybe you gave up praying for them? Today, maybe it's time to start praying again that they would encounter God.

Prayer

God, when I do not understand, help me to persevere.

Strengthen my faith and remind me that you are still at work.

Amen.



ACTS 13

Acts 13 launches a new chapter in the story. The gospel goes fully international.

In Antioch, the church is praying and worshipping when the Holy Spirit speaks. Paul and Barnabas are sent. Not because they are bored, but because God is moving. Their journey begins with obedience.

They follow a pattern. They go first to the synagogue, sharing Jesus with their own people. Sometimes they are welcomed, sometimes they are rejected. When doors close, new ones open. They speak to crowds and individuals, religious leaders and political figures, truth-seekers and opponents.

On Cyprus, Paul confronts deception head on, and a Roman governor comes to faith. In Pisidian Antioch, the whole city gathers, only for opposition to erupt. Rejection and revival sit side by side. Some resist fiercely. Others respond with joy and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13 reiterates the fact that sharing Jesus always brings reaction. Not everyone will agree. Not everyone will celebrate. But the gospel keeps moving forward. Paul and Barnabas do not water down the message to the audience. They remain bold, attentive and ready for whatever opportunity God places in front of them.

A simple and searching thought is, who is our audience and will we have the courage to speak when the moment comes?

Challenge

Today, spend some time thinking about how the gospel relates to people you connect with. Be alert to one opportunity to speak or act for Jesus, whether with one person or many.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, make me attentive and bold.

Help me recognise the opportunities you place before me and respond with faith.

Amen.

ACTS 14

Sometimes the gospel is presented as if it only leads to joy, peace and fulfilment. And it does. But Acts 14 reminds us that it also comes with cost.

Paul and Barnabas travel from place to place, strengthening new believers and appointing leaders. Along the way, miracles happen. In Lystra, Paul heals a man who has never walked. The crowd is stunned. But instead of praising God, they assume Paul and Barnabas must be gods themselves. The moment turns quickly from admiration to confusion.

Paul refuses their worship and tells them the truth about the living God. That honesty comes at a price. Opponents stir up the crowd, and suddenly Paul is being stoned and is then left for dead outside the city. One moment celebrated, the next rejected.

Yet Paul gets back up. Literally. He returns to the city, then moves on to encourage others. He tells the new believers something deeply honest – that we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God. This is not a warning meant to discourage, but a truth meant to prepare.

Acts 14 shows us a resilient faith. A faith that does not quit when misunderstood. A faith that holds joy and suffering together. Paul endures because he knows the story of Jesus, who suffered out of love. Following Jesus is costly, but it is worth it.

Challenge

Today, remember who Jesus is to you. Why do you follow him? Remembering why you follow him will help you be faithful even when witnessing for him is difficult or costly.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be a witness for you, even when it is hard.
Give me strength to persevere and trust you in every season.
Amen.

ACTS 15

Every growing movement reaches a moment where it has to decide what really matters. Acts 15 is that moment for the early church.

The issue is serious. Must non-Jewish believers follow Jewish law to belong? For some, this feels like staying faithful to everything they have made sacrifices for. For others, it feels like an impossible barrier. This is a moment for a possible fracture in the church.

But instead of rushing to a decision, they gather. They listen. They share experiences. Peter reminds them of Cornelius, of how God poured out the Spirit without prerequisites. Paul and Barnabas speak of lives transformed among the Gentiles. James weighs the moment with wisdom and Scripture.

The conclusion is bold and freeing. They refuse to place unnecessary burdens on new believers. Culture will not be confused with the gospel. Faith in Jesus is enough.

Yet Acts 15 also shows us conflict at a personal level. Paul and Barnabas fall out sharply over John Mark. It's wonderful that Scripture doesn't hide this. Leaders disagree. Relationships strain. And the movement continues anyway.

Acts 15 reminds us that unity does not mean uniformity, and maturity does not mean avoiding conflict. What matters is how we handle it. With humility. By listening. With a shared desire to follow after God.

Challenge

Today, ask God to convict you if there is a situation where you have failed to deal with conflict well. Is there a way to humbly make amends? And as you do this, how might the reality of the gospel be grasped?

Prayer

Father,

We lift those before you who have been hurt by the church directly and indirectly.

May your people live out grace and truth with a posture of humility.

And may that start with me.

Amen.

ACTS 16

Acts 16 begins with frustration. Paul wants to move forward, but the Spirit keeps closing doors. Plans are blocked. Routes are denied. Nothing seems to work. This is uncomfortable territory for anyone who likes clarity and momentum.

Eventually, a vision comes. A man from Macedonia is calling for help. Paul obeys, believing God is finally opening the way. But obedience isn't always easy. It leads to challenge.

In Philippi, Paul meets Lydia, a businesswoman whose heart God opens. A quiet, beautiful moment of faith. Soon after, Paul frees a slave girl from exploitation. But this act of compassion disrupts profit and power, and the response is violent. Paul and Silas are beaten, humiliated and thrown into prison.

This is not what we often imagine being obedient to God looks like. And yet, in the darkness, they sing. Not because life is easy, but because God is still good. Their worship becomes a witness.

An earthquake shakes the prison. Doors open. Chains fall. But Paul does not escape. Instead, a jailer is saved. His household rejoices. What began with confusion ends with transformation.

Acts 16 reminds us that God sometimes leads us into hard places because he wants to work in them and through them. Obedience is not about comfort. It is about trust. And God is at work even when the journey makes no sense to us.

Challenge

Today, remain faithful where God has placed you, especially if it feels confusing or costly. How will you worship and share Jesus even when life is hard?

Prayer

God, help me trust you when I do not understand the path. Give me courage to obey and faith to keep going.

Amen.

ACTS 17

Athens is a city buzzing with ideas. Everywhere Paul looks there are statues, shrines, philosophies and conversations about truth. People are not indifferent to spirituality. They are curious, hungry and searching. Yet Paul feels deeply unsettled. Not because people are asking questions, but because they are searching everywhere except the one place where life is found.

Paul does not rush to speak. He walks the streets. He listens. He pays attention. He learns the culture before he addresses it. When he finally speaks on Mars Hill, he does not begin with condemnation but with connection. He points to an altar dedicated to an unknown god and tells them who they are really looking for.

Paul speaks of a God who is not distant or confined to temples. A God who creates, sustains and draws near. A God in whom we live and move and have our being. Then he speaks of Jesus, and of resurrection. And this is where opinions divide.

Some mock. Some are intrigued. Some want to hear more. A few believe. And that is enough. Acts 17 reminds us that faith conversations are rarely tidy or predictable. Our role is not to control the response, but to be faithful in the telling.

Paul shows us that the gospel can engage culture thoughtfully without losing its edge. People are still searching today. The question is whether we are willing to listen well and connect the reality of Jesus with their needs?

Challenge

Today, listen carefully to someone's questions or beliefs. What are some of their hopes, dreams and fears? Look for a gentle moment to point towards Jesus.

Prayer

God, give me wisdom and compassion as I speak.

Help me trust you with how people respond.

Amen.

ACTS 18

Acts 18 feels quieter, but no less important. Paul arrives in Corinth tired, discouraged and under pressure. There are no dramatic breakthroughs at first. Instead, we see him working with his hands, making tents, sharing meals and building friendships. Ministry looks ordinary. Faith grows slowly.

Paul faces rejection again, and it wears him down. At one point, he is ready to move on. Then God speaks words Paul needs to hear. “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. I am with you.” Sometimes the most powerful reassurance is not a change in circumstances, but the reminder that God has not left us.

Paul stays. And because he stays, a church forms. Lives are changed, not overnight, but over time. God works through patience and perseverance.

We also meet Priscilla and Aquila, faithful partners in the story. Later, they encounter Apollos, a gifted and passionate speaker who loves God but lacks understanding. They do not correct him publicly or compete with him. They take him aside and help him grow. Quiet faithfulness shapes future leaders.

Acts 18 reminds us that God often does his deepest work in unseen moments. Through people who stay when it would be easier to leave. Through those who invest without recognition. Faithfulness over time matters more than quick results.

Challenge

Today, who is God calling you to be faithful in your witness to? Is there even someone who you could bless in an unseen way?

Prayer

God, help me persevere when the work feels slow.

Teach me the value of long obedience and quiet faithfulness.

Amen.



LIVING

ACTS 19



Acts 19 shows us what happens when the gospel is taken seriously, not just personally, but publicly. In Ephesus, people encounter the Holy Spirit in powerful ways. Lives are transformed. Old habits are abandoned. Expensive books of magic are burned. Following Jesus costs something real.

As hearts change, resistance grows. The gospel begins to threaten systems built on profit and power. A silversmith named Demetrius stirs fear and anger. A riot erupts. The city is thrown into confusion. People shout, argue and panic, many without knowing why.

Acts 19 reminds us that the gospel is disruptive. When Jesus becomes Lord, idols fall. Not always quietly. Faith is never just a private matter. It reshapes values, priorities and loyalties.

Yet God is not shaken by chaos. His purposes continue. The movement grows. The message spreads. Transformation ripples outward transforming culture and community.

Acts 19 invites us to ask uncomfortable but necessary questions. Where might God want to disrupt us? Where have we focused on profit and power over the gospel? Does the gospel really impact every aspect of our lives?

The power of God is still at work today. Still challenging. Still transforming. Still calling us to respond with courage and obedience.

Challenge

Today, is there a way to gently challenge someone who does not yet have a faith about what their life is built on? How might you do this with grace and how might this create an opportunity to share more of who is Jesus is?

Prayer

Jesus, disrupt me. Be Lord of every part of my life.

Give me courage to follow you fully and without compromise.

Amen.

ACTS 20

Acts 20 feels like a farewell chapter. Paul knows something is shifting. The journey ahead will be costly, and there is a weight to his words as he gathers the believers together. This is not teaching from a distance. This is the voice of someone who has lived among them, loved them and given himself fully for the sake of the gospel.

Paul reminds them how he lived. With humility. With tears. Through hardship. He held nothing back that would help them grow. He taught publicly and privately. Faith was not just proclaimed, it was modelled.

Then comes a striking phrase. Paul says he is compelled by the Spirit, even though he does not know what lies ahead, only that suffering awaits. This is not reckless bravery. It is deep trust. Paul's life is shaped not by comfort or safety, but by obedience.

He warns the leaders to be watchful, to care for the flock, and to guard what has been entrusted to them. Leadership is not about power, but responsibility. Not about recognition, but sacrifice.

Acts 20 invites us to reflect on what shapes our choices. Are we led by fear, or by faith? Paul shows us a life poured out willingly, anchored in calling rather than outcomes. When the farewell ends, they pray, weep and embrace. This is the cost and beauty of a life lived fully for God.

Challenge

Today, reflect on what is shaping your witnessing decisions. Are you obedient to the prompts of God or do you choose comfort? Is there an opportunity to step out in faith today, perhaps sharing something from Scripture with someone?

Prayer

God, help me live a life shaped by faithfulness.

Give me courage to follow you, whatever lies ahead.

Amen.

ACTS 21

Acts 21 is full of warnings. Everywhere Paul goes, people urge him not to continue towards Jerusalem. Prophets speak. Friends plead. Even strangers beg him to turn back. The danger is real, and the concern is genuine.

Paul listens. He weeps with them. But he does not change course. "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart?" he asks. He is ready, not only to be bound, but to suffer for the name of Jesus. This is not stubbornness. It is surrender.

When Paul arrives in Jerusalem, tension rises quickly. Rumours spread. Accusations fly. A crowd forms, and violence erupts. Paul is seized, beaten and arrested. The city is in uproar.

Acts 21 reminds us that obedience does not always look wise to others. Even loving, faithful people may misunderstand the path God has set before us. Following the Spirit can lead us straight into difficulty.

Yet through the chaos, God is at work. Roman soldiers intervene. Paul's life is preserved and the story is not over.

Acts 21 touches again on the power of surrendering everything to God. Paul's resolve challenges our desire for safety and approval. Faithfulness sometimes means walking forward even when everyone else urges us to stop.

Challenge

Today, ask God to help you surrender everything to him. How might this impact the way you communicate the gospel through your words and actions? Is there something specific that God might be asking you to do?

Prayer

Lord, help me to surrender everything to you.

And help me trust your call, even when the road is hard.

Amen.



ACTS 22

Standing on the steps of the barracks, bruised and bound, Paul does something quite remarkable. He asks for permission to speak. The crowd that moments ago tried to kill him falls silent as he begins to tell his story.

Paul does not defend himself. He does not argue theology. He shares his testimony. He speaks of who he was, what he believed and how everything changed when he encountered Jesus. He describes the blinding light, the voice from heaven and the moment his life was turned upside down.

This is not a polished speech. It is honest, personal and courageous. Paul meets hostility with vulnerability. He reminds them that faith is not inherited or enforced. It begins with an encounter.

The crowd listens until Paul speaks of God sending him to the Gentiles. At that point, rage explodes again. Boundaries are exposed. Grace offends. The fact that the gospel is open to all challenges many of the listeners' presuppositions.

Acts 22 reminds us of the power of story. Paul's testimony does not remove opposition, but it does bear witness. God uses his story again and again, even when Paul is in chains.

Acts 22 invites us to reflect on our own story. Not a perfect story, but a real one. God can use it. Sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is simply speak honestly about what Jesus has done in us.

Challenge

Today, reflect on your own story of faith. How has God been faithful? Be ready to share it if the opportunity arises.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for what you have done in my life.

Help me look for opportunities to share even a snippet and then the courage to share with grace.

Amen.

ACTS 23

Acts 23 opens in tension. Paul stands before the Sanhedrin, the supreme Jewish council. He is surrounded by hostility. What should be a place of justice becomes a place of accusation. Paul speaks boldly and immediately the room goes crazy. The council fractures along familiar lines, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Chaos follows.

This chapter reminds us how fragile human systems can be. Truth is rarely welcomed when it threatens power. Paul's safety now depends not on fairness, but on God's intervention. Roman soldiers step in, escorting him away under cover of darkness.

Then comes a quiet, powerful moment. Alone and imprisoned, Paul receives a word from the Lord. "Take courage," Jesus says. "As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome." It is not a promise of ease, but of purpose.

Even as conspiracies form to kill Paul, God is already moving. A young relative overhears the plot. Plans are exposed. Protection is arranged. God works through ordinary people, small moments and unexpected means.

Acts 23 reminds us that courage does not come from control, but from calling. Paul does not know how he will reach Rome, only that God has spoken. When circumstances feel hostile and the future uncertain, God's presence becomes the anchor.

This chapter invites us to trust that God is at work even when events feel chaotic. He sees what we cannot. He guards what we cannot protect ourselves. And he continues his purposes, quietly and faithfully, even in the dark.

Challenge

Today, as you witness, is there a situation that feels dark or uncertain or unfair? Ask God to help you remember that he is still at work and ask God for courage to live out your faith in the midst of it.

Prayer

Lord, when I feel surrounded or unsure, remind me of your calling and presence.

Help me trust you with what I cannot see.

Amen.

ACTS 24

Acts 24 slows the story down, but the pressure does not ease. Paul now stands before Felix, a Roman governor skilled in delay tactics and self-interest. Accusations are carefully crafted. Paul is presented as a troublemaker and a threat to public order.

Paul responds calmly. He does not manipulate the truth or soften his faith. He speaks honestly about justice, self-control and the coming judgement. These are not comfortable topics, especially for someone in power.

Felix is intrigued, even disturbed. He listens but he does not respond. Instead, he postpones. Paul remains imprisoned, not because of guilt, but because Felix hopes for a bribe and wants to keep others happy.

Two years pass. Two years of waiting. Two years of uncertainty. Just imagine that!

Felix senses truth, but refuses to act on it. Awareness without response becomes avoidance. Paul, meanwhile, remains faithful without any signs of visible progress.

Acts 24 challenges our understanding of fruitfulness. Faithfulness is not always measured by movement or success. Sometimes it is measured by endurance. Paul continues to witness, even when nothing seems to change.

Challenge

Is there someone that you're witnessing to that doesn't seem to respond at all? Keep being faithful. Remember that faithfulness may not always look fruitful.

Prayer

God, help me to be faithful to who you have called me to share faith with.

Give me the strength to keep taking opportunities to share about who you are even though it may feel that nothing is happening.

Amen.



ACTS 25

Acts 25 brings a change of leadership, but not a change of circumstances. Felix is replaced by Festus, and Paul's case is reopened. Two years on, old accusations resurface. New politics are at play.

Paul is offered a compromise. A trial in Jerusalem. A chance to please powerful people. But Paul knows the danger. He refuses. Instead, he appeals to Caesar. This is not a grasp for status, but an act of trust. God had promised Rome, and Paul holds on to that promise.

Festus is puzzled. King Agrippa is consulted. Paul remains caught between systems that do not know what to do with him. The gospel does not fit neatly into political categories.

Acts 25 reminds us that faithfulness sometimes looks like waiting in uncomfortable spaces. Paul does not force outcomes. He trusts God's timing, even when progress feels painfully slow.

This chapter invites us to reflect on how we respond when we are misunderstood or stuck. Do we anchor ourselves in the promises of God?

Paul's journey is moving forward, but not quickly. God's promises are unfolding, but not according to human schedules. And yet, the story continues.

Challenge

What are some of the promises that God has given you? For example, in Matthew 28, Jesus promises "...surely I am with you always..." Write down some of the promises, especially as you look for opportunities to share where the gospel is not being understood.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the promises you have spoken over my life.

Strengthen my faith when progress feels slow and the gospel doesn't seem to be making sense to others.

Amen.



ACTS 26

Acts 26 sees Paul at his most personal and most persuasive. Standing before King Agrippa, he is given the chance to speak again. Chains still on his wrists, uncertainty still ahead, Paul does not waste the moment.

He tells his story. Not defensively. Not angrily. Honestly. He speaks of who he was, a man of certainty and zeal, convinced he was serving God. Then he speaks of the encounter that changed everything. The blinding light. The voice of Jesus. The moment his life was transformed forever.

Paul describes his calling not just as forgiveness received, but as purpose given. To open eyes. To turn people from darkness to light. From the power of Satan to God. This is not theory. It is lived experience.

Agrippa listens closely. He is moved, intrigued, unsettled. “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?” he asks. Paul’s response is remarkable. He does not push. He does not retreat. He simply says he wishes everyone listening could become as he is, except for the chains.

Acts 26 reminds us that testimony is powerful because it speaks into people’s lives. Paul does not argue people into the kingdom. He invites them. His story does not remove opposition, but it reveals hope.

This chapter asks us whether we are willing to tell our story with the same courage and clarity. God can use it, even when the outcome feels uncertain.

Challenge

What has the Christian faith given you? Hope? Purpose? Confidence? There will be various themes. Reflect on how these themes become visible as you share your testimony. Today, is there a key theme that you can share with someone as you tell them a snippet of your life story?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for meeting me where I was.

Give me courage to speak honestly about what you have done in my life.
Amen.

LIVING ACTS



ACTS 27

Acts 27 takes us out to sea, into a long and dangerous storm. Paul is now a prisoner on a ship bound for Rome. The journey is slow, frustrating and filled with ignored warnings.

Paul senses danger and speaks up. His advice is dismissed. Experience and authority override his wisdom. Soon the storm hits, violent and relentless. For days, the ship is battered. Hope fades. Food is untouched. Fear settles in.

In the middle of the chaos, Paul stands up. He is a calm and steady voice. He speaks of an angel, of God's promise, of hope that cannot be shaken. The storm does not stop, but fear begins to loosen its grip.

Paul does not promise rescue from difficulty. He promises presence within it. "I have faith in God," he says. Not that everything will be easy, but that God's word will stand.

Eventually, the ship runs aground. It's smashed up. Yet every person survives, just as God promised.

Acts 27 reminds us that faith does not always remove the storm. Sometimes it gives us courage to endure it. Paul's calm becomes a gift to everyone around him. His trust in God steadies others.

This chapter invites us to consider how we respond in a crisis. Are we driven by panic, or anchored in trust? God may use our faith not just for us, but for those around us.

Challenge

Today, in a situation that feels stormy or uncertain, choose to trust God and speak hope where you can. You may even want to share with someone this story from Paul's life.

Prayer

God, when the storm rages, help me trust you.

Anchor my heart in your promises and use my faith to encourage others. Amen.

ACTS 28

The book of Acts does not end with a victory parade. It ends with faithfulness.

After shipwreck, exhaustion and danger, Paul finds himself on the island of Malta. He is not treated as a hero, but as a survivor. And yet, even here, Paul serves. He gathers firewood. He helps. He stays present. Ministry does not stop because circumstances are inconvenient.

Then comes another moment of misunderstanding. A snake bites Paul, and people assume this must be judgement. When he survives, they swing to the opposite extreme and think he must be a god.

Paul accepts neither label.

He prays for the sick and sees healing. What looks like a delay in the main plot line becomes an opportunity. God is still at work, even when plans fall apart. Even when the journey takes an unexpected turn.

Eventually, Paul reaches Rome. This has been the promise hanging over the second half of Acts. But when he arrives, it is not as a free man. He is under house arrest, chained, limited, watched. And yet Luke tells us something extraordinary. Paul welcomes all who come to see him. He teaches. He explains. He proclaims the kingdom of God with boldness and without hindrance.

This is how Acts ends. There is no tidy resolution. No bow-wrapped conclusion. It simply ends with the gospel advancing.

Acts 28 reminds us that God's purposes have not stopped. The book ends, but the mission does not. Acts is not just history—it is a handover. The story now continues through us.

Challenge

Today, look for an opportunity to welcome people like Paul. Is there someone you could invite for a coffee or meal. Before you meet, think about what you might say if they ask about your faith.

Prayer

God, thank you that your work continues.

Use my life, wherever I am, to make Jesus known.

Amen.



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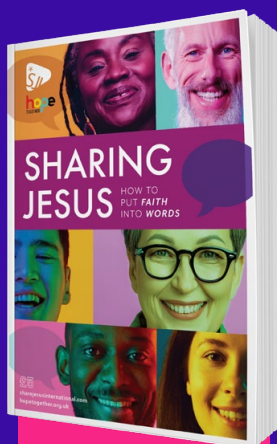


Andy Frost is Director of Share Jesus International and has spent many years helping people grow in confidence in following Jesus and sharing their faith. He is a popular speaker and storyteller who is passionate about connecting the story of Jesus with everyday life. He has written a range of books and resources, including Leadiagrams and Long Story Short. Andy is married to Jo and they have two daughters.

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If this journey through Acts has stirred something in you and you would like more help in sharing your faith, you may find the resource *Sharing Jesus* helpful. Bringing together voices from a diverse range of contributors, it offers practical guidance on starting God conversations, explaining the gospel, taking next steps, and responding to difficult questions.

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