



FearLESS FAITH

while being falsely accused

Acts 24



Acts 24:1–9 (NKJV)

1 Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator named Tertullus.

These gave evidence to the governor against Paul.

2 And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying: “Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight,

3 we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness.

4 Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us.

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5 For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

6 He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.

7 But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands,

8 commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.”

9 And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.

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He Is A FearLESS Believer

- Paul is fearless, and is really being tried because of his faith in Jesus Christ, and he has not spoken a word in the temple!
- His mere presence, and the work he has done for Christ is enough to cause others to get upset!

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1.

**A FearLESS
Believer Is A
Person Of Order**

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Acts 24:10–13 (NKJV)

10 Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: “Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself,

11 because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship.

12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city.

13 Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me.

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- As far as the temple charge was concerned, Paul was in the temple to worship and not to lead a disturbance.
- Paul had not preached in the temple or the synagogues, nor had he preached anywhere in the city.
- Here is the reason why: Years before, Paul had made an agreement with Peter and the Jerusalem elders that he would not evangelize the Jews in Jerusalem.

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Galatians 2:7–10 (NKJV)

7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),

9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

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2.

**A FearLESS
Believer Must
Believe The
Whole Bible**

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Acts 24:14–15 (NKJV)

14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

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- Having disposed of the temple charges, Paul then dealt with the charges of sedition and heresy.
- Even though the high priest was a Sadducee, there were certainly Pharisees in the official Jewish delegation, so Paul appealed once again to their religious roots in the Scriptures.
- The fact that Paul was a Christian did not mean that he worshiped a different God from the God of his fathers.
- It only meant he worshiped the God of his fathers in a new and living way, for the only acceptable way to worship the Father is through Jesus Christ.

John 5:23–24 (NKJV)

23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

- His faith was still founded on the Old Testament Scriptures, and they bore witness to Jesus Christ.

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- The Sadducees accepted the five Books of Moses (*the Law*), but not the rest of the Old Testament.
- They rejected the doctrine of the Resurrection because they said it could not be found anywhere in what Moses wrote.
- Jesus had refuted that argument, but they chose to ignore it.

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Matthew 22:23–33 (NKJV)

23 The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him,

24 saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.

25 Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother.

26 Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh.

27 Last of all the woman died also.

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28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying,

32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

33 And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

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- By declaring his personal faith in the Resurrection, Paul affirmed his orthodox convictions and identified himself with the Pharisees.

1 Corinthians 15:12–19 (NKJV)

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

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15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

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- Once again, the Pharisees were caught in a dilemma, for if Paul's faith was that of a heretic, then they were heretics too!
- Paul and the early Christians did not see themselves as "former Jews" but as "fulfilled Jews."
- The Old Testament was a new book to them because they had found their Messiah.
- They knew that they no longer needed the rituals of the Jewish Law in order to please God, but they saw in these ceremonies and ordinances a revelation of the Saviour.

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Hebrews 10:1–10 (NKJV)

1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

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5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:
“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body
You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no
pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of
the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ”

8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt
offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor
had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to
the law),

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9 then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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3.

**A FearLESS
Believer seeks
to have a pure
conscience with
God and man.**

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Acts 24:16 (NKJV)

This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

- Both as a Pharisee and a Christian, Paul had “taken pains” always to have a good conscience and to seek to please the Lord and man.

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- While sharing the word of God, Paul was not trying to offend man in order to please God!

Proverbs 3:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,

4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

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- As Paul did, we should show the love of God, and keep our pure conscience before God and man.

1 John 4:20–21 (NKJV)

20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

We must have fearless faith while we are being falsely accused.

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