

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## TEACHINGS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

RLJ-1043

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### PART 7: DEFEATING CIRCUMSTANCES

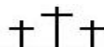
#### THE DEVIL'S TRACK RECORD

- The Devil is never going to cede any territory without a furious fight. He and his fallen angels will use everything in their power to make life miserable and hard for the believer in Christ. They will attack with sickness, death of a loved one, depression, grief, sorrow, discouragement, etc. Nothing is sacred to the Devil, he is a dirty fighter who will ambush, kill, and destroy. Here are some examples of his track record: **Job 1:6-32, 2:1-10**
- Jesus warned his disciples. **John 8:44, 10:10**
- The Apostle Paul described in detail the ongoing battle. **Ephesians 6:10-13**
- The Apostle Peter experienced the wrath of the Devil. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

#### HOW THE APOSTLE PAUL HANDLED CIRCUMSTANCES

- Paul had a burning desire to preach the Gospel to the Jews and Gentiles in order to see them saved and have eternal life in heaven. Was Paul in God's will? Absolutely, but he had to slug it out with the Devil! **Acts 17:1-9**
- The Devil used his demon possessed people in Thessalonica to force Paul out of the city. Paul moved on and came to the city of Berea, but he was not going to be able to stay in this city for a long time. **verses 10-14**
- Paul then found himself in the stronghold of the Devil, the city of Athens. Instead of being discouraged, he began to preach Jesus Christ. **verses 15-17**
- It was here that he encountered the most intellectual people of this time period, Greek philosophers. **verses 18-21**
- Paul was not intimidated but preached the Gospel unashamed. **verses 22-34**
- He did not stay long in Athens and moved on to Corinth. **Acts 18:1-3**
- Paul knew good and well that the Jewish leadership would give him great trouble, and yet he went straight to the synagogue to confront them. **verses 4-6**
- Instead of being discouraged, he took up residence next to the synagogue and the Holy Spirit began to move. **verses 7-11**
- The Devil was not through with Paul as the Jews tried to have Gallio, the Roman ruler stop Paul from preaching. Their plot ended up backfiring on them and their leader was beaten up. **verses 12-18**

#### WHAT PAUL SAID ABOUT HIS CIRCUMSTANCES



- ❑ When we read the following scripture, it shows the personal pain that Paul had experienced over the years. The worst pain for Paul was the accusation that he had taken advantage of the Church in Corinth by taking money from them. Other Christian ministers at that time were drawing salaries from the churches, but for some reason, the Christian leadership in Corinth did not feel that Paul was worthy of a salary. In the following verses, Paul bares his heart to the injustice he felt from the people for which he had risked his life to preach the Gospel. **2 Corinthians 11:1-9**
- ❑ The church in Corinth put up with false teachers and paid them well. **verses 10-15**
- ❑ The pain in the Paul's heart was so deep that he could not help but share some more. **verses 16-21**
- ❑ Paul then listed the different sufferings he had gone through. **verses 22-27**

### **PAUL'S DECLARATION OF VICTORY**

- ❑ *When I am weak, I am strong.* **verses 28-33**

1. Are you offended easily?
2. Do you lose your joy when pressure builds up around you?
3. Is the Devil able to make you angry?
4. How much pressure can you take before you cave in?
5. Are you a victor or a victim? **Matthew 10:32-39**

**Do you have an ear to hear with?**