



HOW GOD WORKS IN YOU

THE CALLINGS AND PURPOSES OF GOD

ACTS 23:11-22

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • March 9 & 10, 2024 • Acts, week 116 • Msg. 24-08

1. Expect _____ (vv.11a, 12-15)

2. Believe _____ (v.11b)

3. Prayerfully _____ (vv.11c, 16-22)

Acts 23:11 *The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."*

12 *When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. **13** There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. **14** They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul. **15** Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near."*

16 *Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. **17** Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him."*

18 *So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, "Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you."*

19 *The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?" **20** And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him. **21** But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent."*

22 *So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of these things."*

(ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Psalm 23:4-5**. God led Paul to endure some very scary and challenging circumstances in Acts 23. What are some of the scary and challenging circumstances God has led you into in the past or the present?
2. Read **Psalm 118:1-6** and **Hebrews 13:5-6**. When is it most difficult to believe that God loves you? Why is the battle to believe in God's promise so important to defeating fear and anxiety in your life?
3. Read **2 Timothy 4:18** and **Isaiah 43:1-7**. How do these two passages relate to one another? Why are God's promises about the next life such an important ingredient to overcoming fear amid the scary seasons in this life?
4. Read **Acts 9:15-16**. While it is unique that Paul was privy to God's specific plans for his life and the associated challenges, you likely have some clarity as to how God has equipped you, directed you, and placed you on the path he has called you to. Describe, as best you can, your current calling and some of the larger associated costs.
5. Read **1 Corinthians 12:14-26**. How do these truths help you to find significance in the purpose the Lord has called you to fulfill in the church, your employment, and your relationships?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 20-08 – **Praying for Courage**
Msg. 23-31 – **Facing God's Plans with Courage**
Msg. 20-07 – **Resolved to Keep Speaking**
Msg. 18-06 – **Living as Christ's Expatriates**
Msg. 12-04 – **Learning to Encourage One Another**
Msg. 06-38 – **Acquiring Strength & Stamina from an Omnipotent God**
Msg. 14-27 – 14-29 **The Omnipotent Christ** (a three-part series on Christ's power)

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

March 10th Deut.11-13 & Mk.13:1-13
March 11th Deut.14-16 & Mk.13:14-37
March 12th Deut.17-19 & Mk.14:1-25
March 13th Deut.20-22 & Mk.14:26-50
March 14th Deut.23-25 & Mk.14:51-72
March 15th Deut.26-27 & Mk.15:1-26
March 16th Deut.28 & Mk.15:27-47
March 17th Deut.29-30 & Mk.16

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Bennett, Arthur. **The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions**. Banner of Truth, 1997.
Bond, Douglas. **The Mighty Weakness of John Knox**. Reformation Publishing Trust, 2011.
Foxye, John. **Foxye's Book of Martyrs**. The John C. Winston Co., 1926.
Mack, Wayne. **Courage: Fighting Fear with Fear**. P & R Publishing, 2014.
Mohler, Albert. **We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture**. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2015.
Nyquist, Paul. **Prepare: Living Your Faith in an Increasingly Hostile Culture**. Moody Publishers, 2015.
Piper, John, et al. **The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World**. Crossway, 2007.
Ryle, J. C. **A Call to Prayer**. Audubon Press, 2002.
Sauls, Scott. **From Weakness to Strength: Vulnerabilities that Can Bring Out the Best in Your Leadership**. Cook, 2017.
Spurgeon, Charles. **Prayer and Spiritual Warfare**. Whitaker House, 1998.
Tada, Joni Eareckson. **When God Weeps: Why Our Suffering Matters to the Almighty**. Zondervan, 1997.
Welch, Edward. **Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest**. New Growth Press, 2007.
Wiersbe, Warren, ed. **Classic Sermons on Suffering**. Kregel Publishing, 1984.