



CHURCH UNLEASHED

A SERIES THROUGH THE BOOK OF **ACTS**



BE ENCOURAGED
YOU'RE NOT ALONE

BE ENCOURAGED...YOU'RE NOT ALONE

I. **Becoming a part of God's family did not remove them from the difficulties of life.**

Acts 2:43 (NIV) Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 5:16 (NIV) Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

BE ENCOURAGED...YOU'RE NOT ALONE

I. **Becoming a part of God's family did not remove them from the difficulties of life.**

Acts 2:45 (NIV) Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Acts 4:35 (NIV) and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

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II. Becoming a part of God's family meant they were to become part of the solution to life's difficulties.

Acts 2:45 (NIV) Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.



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II. Becoming a part of God's family meant they were to become part of the solution to life's difficulties.

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II. Becoming a part of God's family meant they were to become part of the solution to life's difficulties.

Acts 2:45 (NIV) Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

1 Cor. 12:12.26 (NIV) ¹² The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ...²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

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II. Becoming a part of God's family meant they were to become part of the solution to life's difficulties.

Acts 4:36 (NIV) Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement),

Acts 11:23-24 (NIV) ²³ When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

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II. Becoming a part of God's family meant they were to become part of the solution to life's difficulties.

"When you're helping to row the boat, you don't have time to rock it!" Rick Warren

BE ENCOURAGED...YOU'RE NOT ALONE

III. Becoming a part of God's family will generate some of life's problems.

Acts 5:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.

¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

Luke 21:17 (NIV) All men will hate you because of me.

Acts 5:29 (NIV) Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

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III. Becoming a part of God's family will generate some of life's problems.

Matthew 10:26-38 (NIV) ²⁶ "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

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III. Becoming a part of God's family will generate some of life's problems.

³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. ³² "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

³³ But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--

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III. Becoming a part of God's family will generate some of life's problems.

³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' ³⁷ "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

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III. Becoming a part of God's family will generate some of life's problems.

"Faith in God does not make troubles disappear; it makes troubles appear less frightening because it puts them in the right perspective."

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IV. Becoming a part of God's family will turn life's problems into opportunities.

Acts 5:19-20 (NIV) ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

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IV. Becoming a part of God's family will turn life's problems into opportunities.

Acts 5:33-34 (NIV) ³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

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IV. Becoming a part of God's family will turn life's problems into opportunities.

Acts 5:38-39 (NIV) ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

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IV. Becoming a part of God's family will turn life's problems into opportunities.

Acts 5:40-42 (NIV) ⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.



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Acts 4:34 (NIV) There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales

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The Habit of Rising to the Occasion

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... that you may know what is the hope of His calling ...

—[Ephesians 1:18](#)

Remember that you have been saved so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in your body (see [2 Corinthians 4:10](#)). Direct the total energy of your powers so that you may achieve everything your election as a child of God provides; rise every time to whatever occasion may come your way.

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IV. Becoming a part of God's family will turn life's problems into opportunities.

You did not do anything to achieve your salvation, but you must do something to exhibit it. You must “work out your own salvation” which God has worked in you already ([Philippians 2:12](#)). Are your speech, your thinking, and your emotions evidence that you are working it “out”? If you are still the same miserable, grouchy person, set on having your own way, then it is a lie to say that God has saved and sanctified you.

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IV. Becoming a part of God's family will turn life's problems into opportunities.

God is the Master Designer, and He allows adversities into your life to see if you can jump over them properly—"By my God I can leap over a wall" ([Psalm 18:29](#)). God will never shield you from the requirements of being His son or daughter. [First Peter 4:12](#) says, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you" Rise to the occasion—do what the trial demands of you. It does not matter how much it hurts as long as it gives God the opportunity to manifest the life of Jesus in your body.

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IV. Becoming a part of God's family will turn life's problems into opportunities.

May God not find complaints in us anymore, but spiritual vitality—a readiness to face anything He brings our way. The only proper goal of life is that we manifest the Son of God; and when this occurs, all of our dictating of our demands to God disappears. Our Lord never dictated demands to His Father, and neither are we to make demands on God. We are here to submit to His will so that He may work through us what He wants. Once we realize this, He will make us broken bread and poured-out wine with which to feed and nourish others.