



# WORK OF THE SPIRIT

## Acts Chapter 17

Lesson 14

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a specific way you were encouraged by your study of Acts Chapter 16.
2. Have you ever wondered about Paul's fortitude? Where did Paul get the strength to persevere through riots, rejection, arrests, and beatings to continue to proclaim the Gospel? Paul was undaunted by persecution because he understood the power of God and the glory of the Gospel. In Acts 17 Paul continued to proclaim the Gospel against a backdrop of upheaval and intellectualism. Unintimidated by men, Paul boldly declared to anyone who would listen what God the Creator had accomplished through Jesus the Messiah, His Son.

Do you desire greater strength in your life? Then draw close to your Creator and ponder His great work of salvation through Christ Jesus. As you read Acts 17, give a title for each section:

- a. Acts 17:1-9
  - b. Acts 17:10-15
  - c. Acts 17:16-21
  - d. Acts 17:22-34
3. Ask the Lord for His strength and understanding as you search the Scriptures.

*They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily  
to find out whether these things were so.*

Acts 17:11b

**SECOND DAY:** Read Acts 17:1-9

1. After leaving Philippi, Paul and his companions continued their missionary journey through Europe. Document their travels from Acts 17:1.
  
2. From Acts 17:2 describe Paul's *custom*.
  - a. What did he explain to them? Acts 17:3
  
3. Note the people who *were persuaded* by Paul's words. Acts 17:4
  - a. From Acts 17:5-6a comment on the actions of *the Jews that were not persuaded*.
    - (1) What was motivating them? Acts 17:5a
  
4. What did the unbelieving Jews claim that Paul and Silas had done? Acts 17:6b
  - a. Why was this actually a positive testimony?
  
5. According to Acts 17:7, what else were Paul and Silas accused of?
  - a. How were *the crowd and the rulers* affected by these claims? Acts 17:8
  - b. In Acts 17:9 *security* means *to post bond*. Why do you think the rulers required this of Jason?
  
6. Although Paul and Silas were only in Thessalonica three weeks, a church was established there. Use 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 and 2:13 to remark on the fruit of their ministry.
  - a. How did their ministry highlight the power of the Gospel?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Acts 17:10–15

1. After the uproar in Thessalonica, what did *the brethren* do? Acts 17:10a
  - a. Remark on where Paul and Silas went *when they arrived*. Acts 17:10b
  
2. Use Acts 17:11 to note and comment on what made the Bereans distinct from *those in Thessalonica*:
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
  - c.
    - (1) In what way would you like to emulate the Bereans?
  
3. What resulted from their pursuit? Acts 17:12
  - a. What does this convey to you about the Gospel?
  
4. What do you find interesting about the opposition that came against Paul and Silas? Acts 17:13
  
5. From Acts 17:14–15 note the outcome of this opposition with regard to:
  - a. Paul
  
  
  - b. Silas and Timothy
  
6. What do you find most notable about Paul and Silas' ministry in Berea?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Acts 17:16-21

1. What *provoked* Paul in Athens? Acts 17:16
  - a. Why do you think this *provoked* him?
  - b. *Therefore*, what did he do? Acts 17:17
    - (1) What do you find noteworthy about this?
    - (2) How do you desire to respond when you are *provoked*?
2. Epicureans devoted themselves to material pleasures, whereas Stoics denied themselves all earthly pleasures. From Acts 17:18 observe what these differing *philosophers* thought about Paul.
3. Cite the invitation of the *Athenians* after they brought Paul *to the Areopagus*. Acts 17:19-20
  - a. According to Acts 17:21, how did these men occupy *their time*?
    - (1) How did God use this mindset as an open door to the Gospel?
4. Use the following Scriptures to comment on why Paul was not intimidated by these intellectuals:
  - a. Romans 1:16
  - b. 1 Corinthians 1:20-24
  - c. 1 Corinthians 3:19
  - d. Colossians 2:3, 8-10
5. Why should you never be intimidated by the wisdom of this world?

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Acts 17:22–34

1. Paul *stood in the midst of the Areopagus* and began his speech. What did he *perceive* about the *Athenians*? Acts 17:22
  - a. According to Acts 17:23a, how did Paul begin his address?
  - b. *Therefore*, what did Paul *proclaim* to them? Acts 17:23b
2. Use Paul's description of God in Acts 17:24–31 to note and comment on the following:
  - a. God's person (verses 24–25)
  - b. God's sovereignty (verse 26)
  - c. God's purpose (verse 27)
    - (1) Use 1 Timothy 2:4 to remark further on this.
  - d. God's essentiality (verse 28)
  - e. God's superiority (verse 29)
  - f. God's *appointed* day (verses 30–31)
3. Comment on the various reactions to Paul's message. Acts 17:32–34
4. Share something meaningful from Paul's message that ministers to you.

**SIXTH DAY: Review**

1. Imagine yourself travelling with Paul. From Acts 17 send a postcard from each city:

a. Thessalonica (verses 1-9)

b. Berea (verses 10-15)

c. Athens (verses 16-34)

*For in Him we live and move and have our being.*  
Acts 17:28a