



# WORK OF THE SPIRIT

## Acts Chapters 25 and 26

Lesson 20

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What aspect of Paul's experiences in Acts 23-24 spoke to you?
2. When Jesus rose from the dead He conquered death, the greatest enemy of mankind! This is the truth Paul declared before Jewish officials, Roman governors, and King Herod Agrippa II. Paul went so far as to challenge the king, *Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?* Paul knew the power of this truth to save, transform, inspire, embolden, and assure victory.

The problems of life can seem insurmountable at times. Take hope! Jesus has conquered death! May this reality embolden you, like Paul, to triumph over every foe you face. Read Acts 25 and 26 and record any phrase or event that especially ministers to you:

- a. Acts 25:1-12
  - b. Acts 25:13-27
  - c. Acts 26:1-18
  - d. Acts 26:19-32
3. Prepare your heart and mind by writing a prayer, asking the Lord to minister to you through these chapters.

*To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God,  
that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among  
those who are sanctified by faith in Me.*

Acts 26:18

**SECOND DAY:** Read Acts 25:1-12

1. After Festus had been appointed as governor in place of Felix, what did he do? Acts 25:1
  
2. What did the Jews do when Festus arrived? Acts 25:2-3a
  - a. Identify their ultimate intent from Acts 25:3b.
  
3. How did Festus unwittingly thwart the Jews' plan? Acts 25:4-5
  - a. How does this minister to you? See also Isaiah 54:17.
  
4. After his stay in Jerusalem, Festus *went down to Caesarea* to judge Paul. Record from Acts 25:6-8 your observations of Paul's trial.
  
5. According to Acts 25:9a, why did Festus suggest Paul go to Jerusalem?
  - a. Why was Festus' attitude dangerous?
  
6. Use Acts 25:10-11 to summarize Paul's wise response.
  
7. Compare Festus' response in Acts 25:12, with Jesus' promise (Acts 23:11) and Paul's personal desire in Acts 19:21. What do you see?
  - a. How does this minister to you about the ways of God?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Acts 25:13–27

1. Shortly after Paul's trial, King Agrippa and Bernice came to visit Festus (Acts 25:13). *When they had been there many days*, Festus told them about Paul's *case*. Summarize his account of the *case*. Acts 25:14–21
  - a. What did Festus identify as the heart of the *accusation* against Paul? Acts 25:19
    - (1) Use 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 to express why this is such a crucial issue.
2. How did Agrippa respond to Festus' account? Acts 25:22
3. Describe the scene that occurred in Acts 25:23.
4. Note and comment on the following from Festus' introduction of Paul in Acts 25:24–27:
  - a. the stance of the Jews toward Paul (verse 24)
  - b. Festus' findings (verse 25)
  - c. Festus' dilemma and solution (verses 26–27)
5. Though Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice were the notable figures, why was Paul the most enduring personality? See also 1 John 2:17.
  - a. How does this minister to you?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Acts 26:1-18

1. In Acts 26:1 King Agrippa *permitted* Paul to *speak*. Use Acts 26:2-15 to share what stands out to you from Paul's defense:
  - a. his address to Agrippa (verses 2-3)
  - b. his background (verses 4-5)
  - c. the reason he was being *judged* (verses 6-8)
    - (1) How does Paul's challenge to Agrippa in Acts 26:8 speak to you?
  - d. his persecution of the church (verses 9-11)
  - e. his salvation experience (verses 12-15)
2. For what *purpose* did Jesus appear to Paul? Acts 26:16a
  - a. Paul was to *witness both of the things* which he had seen and would be revealed to him (Acts 26:16b). Choose from the list below one of the many revelations given to Paul and comment on how it ministers to you:
    - (1) Romans 8:37-39
    - (2) 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
    - (3) 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
    - (4) Ephesians 2:8-10
    - (5) Ephesians 3:17-20
3. How did Jesus promise to deliver Paul in Acts 26:17?
4. Acts 26:18 underscores how God used Paul in a tremendous way. Share how this has been true of God's work in your own life to:
  - a. Open your eyes
  - b. Turn you from darkness to light
  - c. Turn you from the power of Satan to God
  - d. Receive forgiveness of sins
  - e. Receive an inheritance
  - f. Sanctify you by faith in Jesus
    - (1) Use this verse to pray for someone.

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Acts 26:19–32

1. As Paul gave his defense before Agrippa, he shared about his encounter with Jesus and declared that he *was not disobedient to the heavenly vision* (Acts 26:19). According to Acts 26:20, how did Paul put his obedience into action?
  - a. What happened as a result? Acts 26:21
  
2. In spite of opposition, what had Paul *obtained* in order to *stand* and witness? Acts 26:22a
  - a. Link this with Psalm 46:1–2. How does this truth minister to you?
  
3. As Paul witnessed *both to small and great*, what *things* did he say? Acts 26:22b–23
  
4. How did Festus react as Paul *made his defense*? Acts 26:24
  - a. Why do you think he reacted this way? See 1 Corinthians 1:18.
  
5. Paul graciously corrected Festus, declaring that he spoke *the words of truth and reason* (Acts 26:25). Record something you have discovered in God’s word concerning:
  - a. *truth*
  
  - b. *reason*
  
6. How did Paul challenge Agrippa? Acts 26:26–27
  - a. Note Agrippa’s response in Acts 26:28. Link this with Acts 24:25 and share your thoughts.
  
  - b. What did Paul express to Agrippa? Acts 26:29
  
7. Note the conclusion of Paul’s trial from Acts 26:30–32 and record the final verdict concerning him.
  - a. What do you find most interesting about Paul’s defense?

