

God's Unstoppable Power in Us

New Life Lessons
May 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2015
Pastor Ron Salsbury

- **Day One– Read Acts 5:12-21a.**

This was a movement that was truly “unstoppable” because it was God’s work! There was evidence of God’s power at work in a remarkable way. We can see God’s work in our lives. How have you seen healing and deliverance in your life or the people you know?

Pray and ask God to pour out his power in your life to bring him glory. Ask for miracles and signs that Christ would be glorified in your life. Maybe the greatest miracle of all is a truly changed life.

- **Day Two–Read Acts 5:34-35, 38-42.**

How did Gamaliel, a leading Pharisee (maybe a believer in Christ) diffuse the tension in the Sanhedrin and spare Peter and John’s life? What was his argument?

Pray – Ask God to help you live in a way that your life has eternal impact and your activities are “of God” and have lasting value and impact.

- **Day Three–Read Read Acts 6:8-13; 7:1-60.**

Stephen was the first martyr of the Church. He was stoned to death. He infuriated the religious leaders with his speech. What was it that made them so mad? What was the heart of his indictment? Notice that his words were hard, but his heart was loving and forgiving. God’s unstoppable power was at work in him!

Pray – Ask God to help you stand up for the truth about Jesus. Our words may or may not be hard, but our hearts can always be loving and forgiving. Pray that this will be so in your life. You may not have to die for Christ, but you do need to live for him!

“You Can’t Stop the Unstoppable”

A .D. Series #5

Acts 5:12-16, 17-21a, 29-32

The Meaning of Signs and Wonders

Acts 5:12-16 (NIV) ¹² The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³ No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Luke 7:22; 9:1-2; 10:1, 9; Acts 4:29-30; Matthew 18:18-20; James 5:14-16

A Miraculous Release

Acts 5:17-20 (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. 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.”

Back to the Sanhedrin ... Again

Acts 5:27-28 (NIV) ²⁷ Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.”

Acts 5:29-33 (NIV) ²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: **"We must obey God rather than men!"** ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead--whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ **God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.** ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³ **When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.**

The Wisdom of Gamaliel

Acts 5:34-35, 38-42 (NIV) 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. ³⁵ Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. 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."**

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.**

Stephen, the First Martyr of the Church

Acts 6:8-9a, 13a (NIV) ⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ^{9a} Opposition arose, however... ^{13a} They **produced false witnesses**, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place..".

Acts 7:51-52, 54-60 (NIV) ⁵¹ **"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"** ⁵² Was there

ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him-- ⁵⁴ When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ **"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."**

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, **they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.** Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, **"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."** ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Living with Unstoppable Power

1. We Must Fully Commit Our Lives.

Luke 9:23 (NIV) ²³ Jesus said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must **deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** Acts 5:13; Romans 12:1-2

2. We Must Openly Share Our Faith.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ In your hearts set apart **Christ as Lord.** Always **be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to **give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with **gentleness and respect.** 2 Corinthians 1:4; 5:17-20a

3. We Must Totally Trust in God.

Romans 8:28 (NIV) ²⁸ We know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him,** who have been **called according to his purpose.** Philippians 1:12-18; Proverbs 3:5-6

Acts 8:1, 4 (NIV) ¹ On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were **scattered** throughout Judea and Samaria. ⁴ Those who had been scattered **preached the word** wherever they went.