

Momentum- A Study in Acts
Witness – Study Guide
Acts 20:17-26:32

By this time in the story, "*all the residents in Asia*" (Acts 19:10) heard the gospel message. Paul is about to become a witness for Christ, all the way to the top, with his appeal to go before Caesar. Each step of the way, he simply shares his story. He is a witness to what Christ has done. What's the angle here? How can Paul be so committed to getting the good news of Jesus out to others?

1. Read the following passages and discuss Paul's commitments. List the things that stand out to you. What do you think motivated him? What were his priorities? Why do you think he was so committed?
 - a. ... to Others (Acts 20:18-21)
 - b. ... to God (Acts 20:22-24)
 - c. ... to the Lost (Acts 20:26-27)
 - d. ... to Himself (Acts 21:13-14)

2. Read the following passages (or choose 1-2) and discuss any observations about the way Paul is a witness for Christ in each situation:
 - a. The Jewish Mob (Acts 22:1-21)
 - b. The Jewish Council (Acts 23:1-11)
 - c. Before Felix (Acts 24:1-23)
 - d. Before Festus (Acts 25:1-12)
 - e. Before Agrippa (Acts 26:1-32)

3. Notice Paul's approach to his own life:
"...For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die..." (Acts 21:13).
How can this approach make us more effective when it comes to sharing our faith and being a witness? Discuss.

Application

Pray for people in your life that are not yet saved. Ask God to give you an opportunity this coming week to share your faith story with someone else.

Witness Message Slides

Theme Verse- Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 19:10

"... all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks."

Big Idea: Die to Live

Image- Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey

I. All in: Paul's Decision to go back to Jerusalem (Acts 20:17-21:16)

A. My Commitment to Others! (Acts 20:18-21)

I was with you!!

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. My Commitment to God (Acts 20:22-24)

²²...and now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

C. My Commitment to the Lost (Acts 20:26-27)

²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

D. My Commitment to Myself (Acts 21:13-14)

¹³Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

Big Idea: Die to Live

II. My Witness to the World (Acts 22-26)

A. The Jewish Mob (Acts 22:1-21)

³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,

B. The Jewish Council (Acts 23:1-11)

And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." ² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

¹¹ Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.

C. Before Felix (Acts 24)

¹¹ You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem,¹² and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city.¹³ Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. ¹⁴ But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,

D. Before Festus (Acts 25:1-12)

⁸ Paul argued in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense." ⁹ But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?" ¹⁰ But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried.

E. Before Agrippa (Acts 25:13-26:32)

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²⁴ And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind." ²⁵ But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. ²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.

E. Before Agrippa (Acts 25:13-26:32)

²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."²⁸ And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" ²⁹ And Paul

said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."

Big Idea: Die to Live