

The Church on Mission

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." Acts 1:8

Good News Baptist Church
AM Message

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May 17, 2020

WEIGHING ADVICE IN LIGHT OF GOD'S WILL

Acts 21:1-14

Context: The Holy Spirit has revealed to Paul that He is to go to Jerusalem despite imprisonment and suffering (Acts 20:22-23). Paul embraces the mission even though the Ephesian elders struggled with it and though other believers will advise against Paul's trip to Jerusalem (Acts 21:4, 10-14).

You need courageous conviction in what the will of God is, to face resistance to it.

Spirit given conviction in the will of God:

I. Requires living dedicated to God's causes (Acts 20:22-24).

- *Has your faith written God a blank check to use you as He pleases?*
- *What are you living for? What are the objectives you are living for and by? List three of them. Consider, biblically, what godly goals you need to courageously fulfill.*

II. Faces pressure from friends trying to keep you from doing hard things for God (Acts 21:1-6).

- *Don't be too "quick to know the will of God for someone else" ... "well-meaning believers were trying to make God's will conform to their preconceptions." [R Kent Hughes].*
- *We cannot be so egocentric that we have no concept of hardship in God's plan for us. You cannot allow your biased view of your happiness to blind you from hurting for God.*

III. Evaluates friends' advice in light of the biblical will of God (Acts 21:7-14).

- *You must sort through the pressures of heart-rending emotional appeals. You must keep your focus on your vertical relationship to please God when your friends try to put the focus on fulfilling you or them.*

- *Sift people's fears out of their advice to see the situation clearly.*

- *You and I cannot ruin the plan and purposes of God. We may suffer the natural consequences of our sin, but we cannot sabotage God's rule.*