



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High

Title: Paul's Farewell Speech,
Part 1

Lesson: 105

Text: Acts 20:17-19a

Date: June 15, 2025

Acts 20:17–24 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

Another significant transition.

“elders” (presbyteros) - Speaks of spiritual maturity

Acts 20:28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

“overseers” - speaks of oversight

“shepherd” - speaks of the function to lead, guide, and protect

Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as **pastors** and **teachers**

Both titles speak of the same person

“Pastor-teachers”

The Granville Sharp Rule - When two or more singular, personal nouns (not proper names) are joined by the conjunction "kai" (καὶ - "and"), and the definite article (like ὁ - "the") precedes only the first noun, then the second noun refers to the same person as the first noun.

Two observations

1. Elders are always men

“elder” is always grammatically masculine

2. The biblical pattern is to raise up elders within the church.

2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Elders have five primary responsibilities:

1. To live a life worthy of _____.

18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, “you yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,

NIV - “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, join in following **my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an **example** of those who believe.

1 Peter 5:2–3 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be **examples** to the flock.

1 Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an **example** for you to follow in His steps,

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

“whole time”

A. To _____ the Lord.

19 **serving the Lord** with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

“serving” [doulos] - _____

"doulos" referred to four realities:

1. Full _____

1 Corinthians 6: –20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that **you are not your own?** 20 For you have been **bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body.

2. Absolute _____

3. Unwavering _____

4. Total _____

Elders must first and foremost be _____
of Christ.

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a **(doulas)** bond-servant of Christ.

2. To serve in _____

19 serving the Lord **with all humility** and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

Human self-esteem is how we see ourselves and how we think others see us.

Spiritual self-esteem is an understanding of how God sees us.

“all” humility

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider **anything** as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

Philippians 2:5–7 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Humility is _____ growth

This is how Paul saw himself in 55 AD.

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the **least of the apostles**, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

This is how Paul saw himself six years later in 61 AD.

Ephesians 3:8 To me, the **very least of all saints**, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

This is how Paul saw himself five years later in 66 AD.

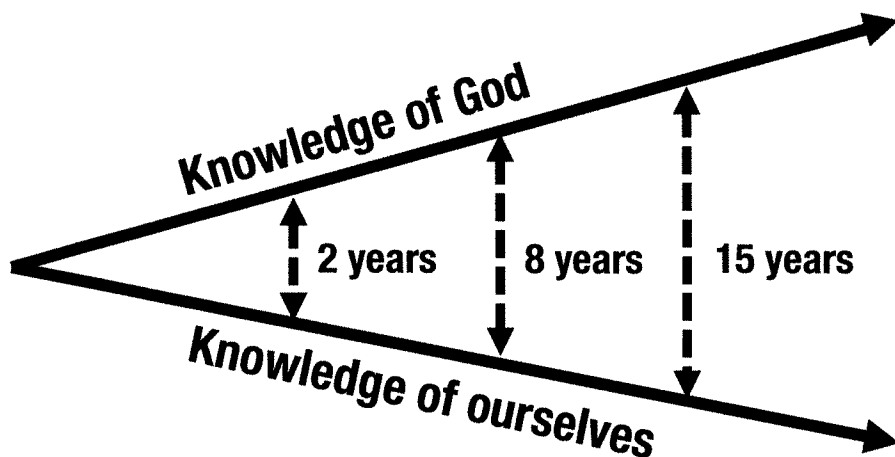
1 Timothy 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom **I am foremost of all.**

The godliest saints are often the most conscious of their own sinfulness.

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

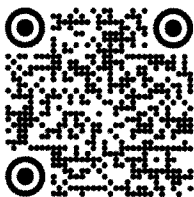
How humility works.



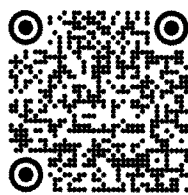
An greater appreciation of _____

Discussion Guide

1. Why did Paul emphasize a life of imitation as the key to effective eldership?
2. Review the four features of first century slavery and share why that imagery should not be ignored for the modern-day believer.
3. What is humility and why is it essential? Look up and discuss the following verses - James 4:6; Ps 138:6; Prov 3:34; Matt 23:12; 1 Pet 5:5.
4. How can you follow Paul's example in your own ministry, workplace, or relationships?



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ANSWERS: imitation, serve, slave, ownership, submission, obedience, dependence, slaves, humility, downward, grace