



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High  
**Title:** Paul's Farewell Speech,  
Part 9  
**Lesson:** 112

**Text:** Acts 20:28-31  
**Date:** October 12, 2025

## A correction from

**Series:** Power From On High  
**Title:** Paul's Farewell Speech,  
Part 3  
**Lesson:** 107

**Text:** Acts 20:21-24  
**Date:** August 17, 2025

## Original statement

After Acts 2:38 there are 17 gospel presentations and not one of them mention water baptism.

## New statement

**There are 66 verses in Acts that include statements of salvation - 'belief,' 'faith,' 'called,' and 'repent.'"**

Acts 2:21; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 3:16; Acts 3:19; Acts 4:4; Acts 4:32; Acts 5:14; Acts 6:5; Acts 6:7; Acts 8:12; Acts 8:13; Acts 8:22; Acts 8:37; Acts 9:21; Acts 9:26; Acts 9:42; Acts 10:43; Acts 10:45; Acts 11:17; Acts 11:18; Acts 11:21; Acts 11:24; Acts 13:8; Acts 13:12; Acts 13:24; Acts 13:41; Acts 13:48; Acts 14:1; Acts 14:9; Acts 14:22; Acts 14:23; Acts 14:27; Acts 15:5; Acts 15:7; Acts 15:9; Acts 15:11;

Acts 5:31; Acts 16:5; Acts 16:15; Acts 16:31; Acts 16:34;  
Acts 17:12; Acts 17:30; Acts 18:8; Acts 18:27; Acts 19:2;  
Acts 19:4; Acts 19:18; Acts 19:4; Acts 20:21; Acts 21:20;  
Acts 20:21; Acts 21:25; Acts 22:19; Acts 24:14; Acts 24:24;  
Acts 26:18; Acts 26:20; Acts 27:25; Acts 28:24

**There are 19 verses that mention various forms of the word “baptism” and not one of them when rightly interpreted suggest that water baptism saves.**

Acts 1:5; **ACTS 2:38**; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Acts 8:13; Acts 8:16; Acts 8:36; Acts 8:38; Acts 9:18; Acts 10:47; Acts 10:48; Acts 11:16; Acts 16:15; Acts 16:33; Acts 18:8; Acts 19:3; Acts 19:4; Acts 19:5; **ACTS 22:16**

Acts 22:16 ‘Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’

“**and**” separates the verb “be baptized” from the last clause “wash away your sins, calling on His name.”

“**and**” separates two commands “be baptized” and “wash away sins”

“**calling**” - instrumental participle

It explains how an action takes place .

“Calling” is the means of accomplishment

ANT - Acts 22:16 And now, why do you delay? Rise and be baptized, and by calling upon His name, wash away your sins.

## **Detailed explanation**

The conjunction “kai” (translated “and”) in Acts 22:16 separates the commands to be baptized and to wash away sins because it coordinates two distinct but related actions rather than presenting them as a single event. The verse can be understood as saying: “Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name,” where baptism and the washing away of sins (salvation) are connected but not identical acts. This suggests that washing away sins is linked to calling on the Lord’s name, while baptism is a commanded, outward step of obedience related to that cleansing, but not the direct cause of salvation itself.

The presence of participles (“having risen,” “having called on the Lord’s name”) further supports the idea that these are sequential or complementary actions rather than a single fused event. Thus, “kai” functions here more as a coordinating conjunction marking two associated yet distinct aspects of conversion—baptism as an act of obedience and calling on the Lord as the means by which sins are washed away.

All of this points out that the Greek avoids reading the verse as teaching that the mere act of baptism washes sins away, instead emphasizing the spiritual act of calling on Christ as the basis for the forgiveness of sins, with baptism closely linked as a public testimony of that faith.

## **Elders have eight primary responsibilities.**

1. To live a life worthy of imitation
2. To serve the Lord
3. To preach God’s Word
4. To evangelize the unsaved

- 5. To be led by the Spirit
- 6. To oversee the Church

- A. Practice personal vigilance
- B. Shepherd the flock
- C. Protect the flock

## 7. To depend on \_\_\_\_\_ & His \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:32–38 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

“**commend**” [paratithemi] -

Luke 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I **commit** My spirit.” Having said this, He breathed His last.

“**God**”

“**the word of His grace**”

### **Paul prayed for the churches**

Acts 20:36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Romans 1:9–10 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how **unceasingly I make mention of you, 10 always in my prayers** making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

Ephesians 1:15–16 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, 16 **do not cease giving thanks for you**, while making mention of you in my prayers;

Philippians 1:4 **always offering prayer** with joy in my every prayer for you all,

1 Thessalonians 1:2–3 **We give thanks to God always for all of you**, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

2 Thessalonians 1:11 To this end also **we pray for you always**, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as **I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day**,

Philemon 4 **I thank my God always**, making mention of you in my prayers,

- Choosing Judas's successor (1:24),
- Facing persecution (4:23–31; 16:25);
- Choosing of the first deacons (6:6)
- Peter's release from prison (12:5, 12),
- Sending Paul & Barnabas to the mission field (13:3),
- Appointing elders in local churches (14:23)

## 8. To be free from \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:33 “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes.

1 Timothy 3:3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, **free from the love of money.**

### **Many false teachers in Israel were filled with greed.**

Isaiah 56:11 And the dogs are **greedy**, they are not satisfied. And they are shepherds who have no understanding; They have all turned to their own way, Each one to his unjust gain, to the last one.

Jeremiah 6:13 “For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is **greedy** for gain, And from the prophet even to the priest Everyone deals falsely.

Jeremiah 8:10 “Therefore I will give their wives to others, Their fields to new owners; Because from the least even to the greatest Everyone is **greedy** for gain; From the prophet even to the priest Everyone practices deceit.

Micah 3:11 Her leaders pronounce judgment for a **bribe**, Her priests instruct for a price And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord saying, “Is not the Lord in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us.”

2 Peter 2:3 and in their **greed** they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

34 “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me.

Elders who faithfully serve in ministry are rightfully  
\_\_\_\_\_ to receive financial support.

**Paul did have the right to be paid for his ministry.**

1 Corinthians 9:3–7 My defense to those who examine me is this: 4 Do we not have a right to eat and drink? 5 Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 6 Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working? 7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

12 If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

35 “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Philippians 2:3–4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

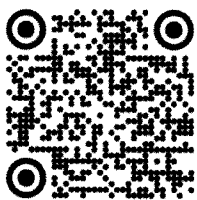
37 And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, 38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

### **Implication**

Faithful elders who feed, lead, and protect the church are \_\_\_\_\_ for its spiritual health and vitality.

### **Discussion Guide**

1. Why is Paul's commendation in (v.32) "to God and to the word of His grace" so important?
2. In what ways does Paul's example of working with his own hands (v.34) and refusing financial support challenge modern church leadership attitudes toward ministry and support?
3. What does Paul mean when he says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (v.35), and how can this principle shape the way elders serve their congregations?
4. How do the emotional farewell actions in verses 37-38 reflect the deep relationship between Paul and the elders, and what does this teach about the importance of mutual care and love in church leadership?



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**ANSWERS:** God, word, self-interest, authorized, indispensable