



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High

Text: Acts 21:15-24

Title: The Need for Compromise
Part 1

Date: November 16, 2025

Lesson: 115

Acts 21:15 After these days we got ready and started on our way up to Jerusalem.

16 Some of the disciples from Caesarea also came with us, taking us to Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing with whom we were to lodge.

Faith, when lived courageously, is _____.

17 After we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

“received” [apodechomai] - Middle Voice

18 And the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

“elders”

19 After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

“God had done”

Paul's humble acknowledgment of God's glory was his usual pattern.

Acts 14:14-15: When people tried to worship Paul and Barnabas after witnessing a miracle, they tore their clothes and insisted, “We are only human like you,” **directing all glory to God**

Acts 14:27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to **report all things that God had done** with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 15:4 When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and **they reported all that God had done with them.**

Acts 15:12 All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul **as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done** through them among the Gentiles.

When ministry thrives, we should resist taking credit for ourselves but instead point to what _____ has accomplished _____.

The apostles never minimized their responsibility to actively participate.

Acts 14:27 - “with them”

Acts 15:4 - “with them”

Acts 15:12 - “through them”

Paul’s report was not delivered in generalities.

19 After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

“One by one”

**Missionary reports should to be _____
in what God accomplished through their efforts.**

20 And when they heard it they began glorifying God;

Leaders set the tone for God centered worship.

20a and they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law;

“zealous for the Law”

21 and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

“they have been told” [(katēcheō] - Catechize

“forsake” [apostasia] - Apostatize

The Judaizers’s accusations were false:

1. Paul never told anyone to abandon circumcision.

He told Timothy to be circumcised (Acts 16:1-3)

2. Paul never told anyone to abandon Jewish customs.

He took a Nazirite vow (Acts 18:18)

3. Paul participated in Pentecost.

He was heading back to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. (Acts 20:16)

22 “What, then, is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

23 “Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; 24 take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law.

“walk orderly, keeping the law”

What relationship do believers have to the Law?

Romans 7:1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?

2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is **released from the law** concerning the husband. 3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is **free from the law**, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ,

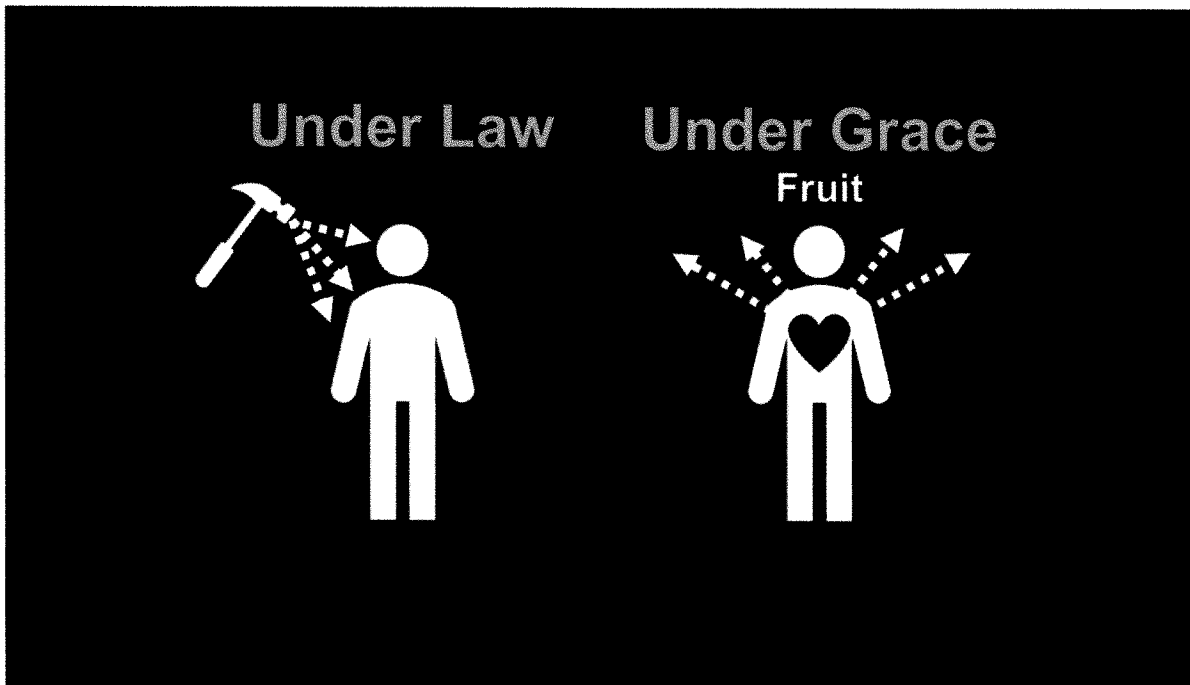
so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

5. For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

“in the flesh”

“aroused by the Law”

6 But now we have been **released from the Law**, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in **newness of the Spirit** and not in **oldness of the letter**.



What relationship do believers have to the Law?

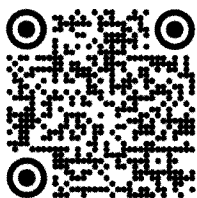
Through Christ, we are released from the Law's bondage to serve God not by rule-keeping, but by _____ living that flows from a transformed heart.

Implication

It was an choice of _____

Discussion Guide

1. Explain in your own words the relationship believers have to the Mosaic Law.
2. Why do you think Paul agreed to participate in the purification ritual, even though he had taught that Gentile believers were not bound by the Law of Moses?
3. How does the elder's advice to Paul (vv. 20–24) reflect a concern for both truth and peace within the Christian community?
4. What does today's passage teach about the importance of perception and reputation in ministry?



***Meet
the staff***



***Online
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***Weekly
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ANSWERS: inspiring, specific, Spirit-led, godly compromise