



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High

**Title:** Faithfulness in Unjust  
Circumstances, Part 2

**Lesson:** 134

**Text:** Acts 24:10-16

**Date:** June 7, 2026

## How to Stand Firm Under Pressure

### 1. The right \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 24:10 When the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: “Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense,

#### A. Depend on the \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 12:11–12 “When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

## B. Maintain \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 17:27 He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

Proverbs 25:15 By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, And a soft tongue breaks the bone.

## C. Be \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 24:10 When the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense,

**"many years"**

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

## 2. The proper \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 24:10 ~~When the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul~~  
responded: “Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense,

Proverbs 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor Is spreading a net for his steps.

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 7:21–22 With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him. 22 Suddenly he follows her As an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool,

### **Scripture treats flattery as a serious moral issue:**

1. It is rooted in deception and dishonesty.
2. It is self-serving and manipulative.

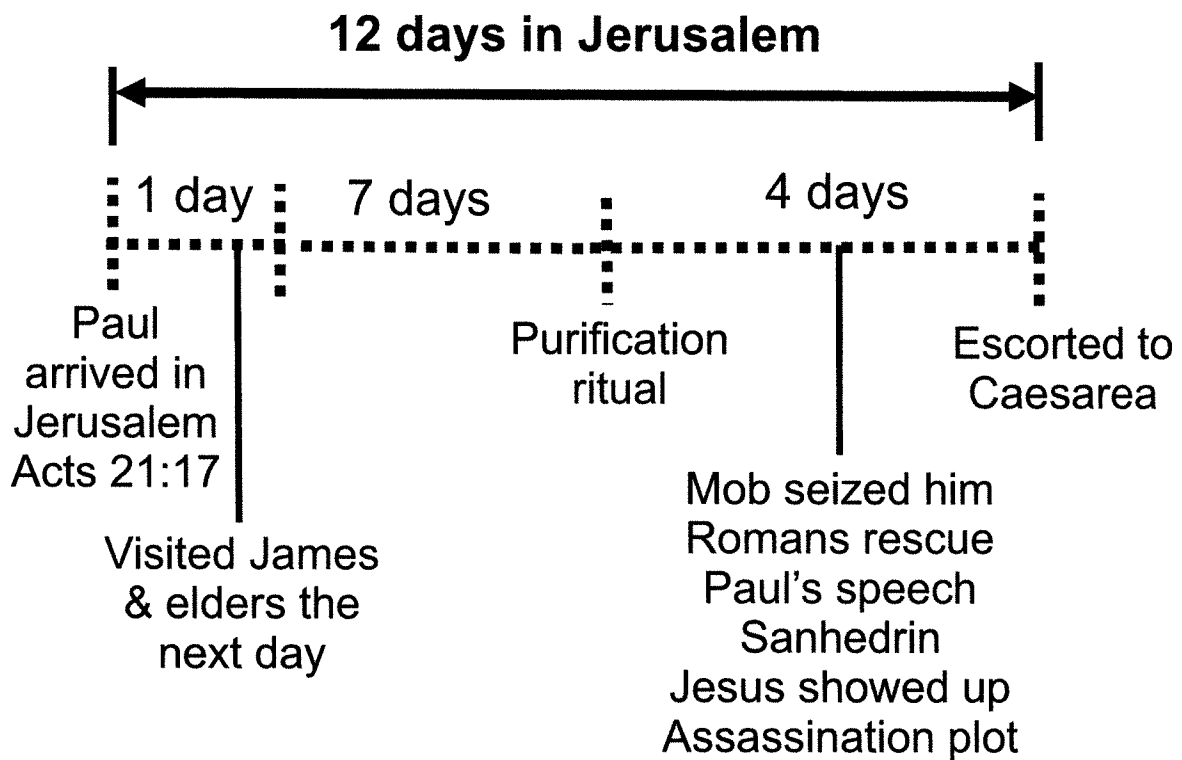
Romans 16:18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and **flattering speech** they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

3. It harms others by feeding their pride and vanity.

4. It mimics the language of the enemy.

**B. Stick to the \_\_\_\_\_**

11 since you can take note of the fact that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship.



“worship”

12 “Neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city itself did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot. 13 “Nor can they prove to you the charges of which they now accuse me.

**As followers of Christ, we should live with such**

\_\_\_\_\_ **that no one has legitimate grounds for accusations.**

**When falsely accused, we are free to give a clear, honest**

**defense, then \_\_\_\_\_ with the results.**

**3. A worthy \_\_\_\_\_**

**A. Seize the moment to \_\_\_\_\_**

14 “But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;

**“the Way”**

## **How did this help Paul's defense?**

- It showed that he was not a part of a disruptive sect (cult).
- He declared that the Way (Christianity) was not a new religion nor was he abandoning Israel.
- He found common ground with his accusers.

15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

**“hope”** [elpis] -

**“which these men cherish themselves”**

Daniel 12:2 — “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”

John 5:28–29 “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

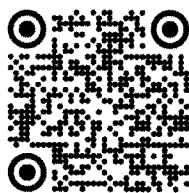
**B. Maintain a clear \_\_\_\_\_**

16 “In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.

**Eschatology must drive our \_\_\_\_\_, or it is worthless speculation.**

## Discussion Guide

1. The sermon highlighted Proverbs 15:1 (“A gentle answer turns away wrath...”). Why does that work so well?
2. Paul refused to use flattery or manipulation and simply stuck to the truth. Why is flattery such a serious issue according to Scripture?
3. Paul lived with such integrity that his accusers had no real evidence against him. What does it look like practically for a Christian to “live with such integrity that no one has legitimate grounds for accusations”?
4. Instead of just defending himself, Paul used the trial as an opportunity to share his faith and emphasize the resurrection. When you face opposition or criticism, how can you turn it into a moment to witness?
5. The sermon closed with this principle: “Our eschatology should drive our ethics, or it is worthless speculation.” How should our belief in the resurrection and final judgment change the way we live daily?



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Announcement***

**ANSWERS:** attitude, God, composure, respectful, approach, manipulation, truth, integrity, trust God, goal, witness, conscience, ethics