

Series: Power From On High
Title: The Gospel Remains Unstoppable, Part 2
Lesson: 146

Text: Acts 28:16-31
Date: November 16, 2026

Five ways God guarantees the advancement of the gospel:

1. By extending unexpected kindness.
2. By providing divine protection.
3. By opening new opportunities for ministry.
4. By refreshing weary saints with fellowship.

5. By advancing the gospel despite _____.

A. _____ can't stop the gospel.

Acts 28:16–31 When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

"When we entered Rome"

17 After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews,

and when they came together, he began saying to them, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

"Brethren"

"OUR people" / "OUR fathers"

18 "And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death.

19 "But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation.

20 "For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel."

"hope of Israel."

21 They said to him, “We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you.

B. _____ can’t stop the gospel.

22 “But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”

“sect”

“spoken against everywhere”

When culture opposes the truth, don't retreat; step forward with clarity, boldness, and love, pointing them to Christ.

23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers;

and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

"the kingdom of God"

C. _____ can't stop the gospel.

24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

Pastor Jim's notes

"were being persuaded" - Imperfect tense, PASSIVE voice

In the original Greek, "were being persuaded" is a single verb in the imperfect tense. That tense describes an ongoing process in the past, so those who believed were progressively convinced as Paul taught the Old Testament Scriptures for twelve hours straight.

That same word is also in the passive voice, which means the subject receives the action. That tells us that those unbelievers received the persuasive power of God's Word; in other words, they were being won over "by the things spoken." Here's what Luke is showing us when we put these together: sinners come to

saving faith as God's Word progressively convinces their hearts to believe.

" would not believe" - Imperfect tense, ACTIVE voice

In the original Greek, "would not believe" is also a single verb in the imperfect tense, which again means an ongoing process. In this case, that describes an ongoing resistance in the past, so those who rejected Christ were persistently refusing to believe as Paul taught the Old Testament Scriptures from morning until evening.

This verb is different because it's in the active voice, which means the subject produces the action. So those who "would not believe" were making a deliberate choice to reject the gospel. Put those two together, and it shows us that nobody goes to hell because God's Word lacks power; sinners perish because their own stubborn will progressively and actively refuses to believe.

When sinners believe, God gets all the glory because _____ overcomes their resistance and persuades their hearts to believe in Christ.

When sinners reject Christ, they bear all the blame because their _____ closes their eyes and walks away in unbelief.

25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, ' "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

26 saying, 'Go to this people and say, "You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;

27 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them."

"For"

"THEY have closed their eyes"

Stubborn unbelief doesn't just reject the truth; it

_____ our ability to see it.

28 “Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.”

“Therefore”

29 When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.

30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

“unhindered”

Matthew 16:18 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

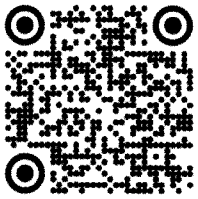
Discussion Guide

1. What kinds of opposition do Christians face today, and how can we respond with both boldness and love?

2. What can we learn from Paul's approach about building relationships with people who may disagree with our beliefs?

3. In Acts 28:24, some were persuaded while others refused to believe. How should this reality shape our expectations and attitudes when sharing the gospel with others?

4. Acts ends with Paul preaching the kingdom of God "with all openness, unhindered." What does this final word teach us about the power of the gospel, and how should it influence our commitment to sharing Christ?



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Weekly Announcement

ANSWERS: opposition, Persecution, Culture, Unbelief, grace, own will, destroys