

Awakened

Day 22

Scripture of the Day

Acts Chapter 20

Power Quote

The work of the Spirit is to impart life, to implant hope, to give liberty, to testify of Christ, to guide us into all truth, to teach us all things, to comfort the believer, and to convict the world of sin.

Anonymous

Glossary

Unleavened Bread

Unleavened bread is bread or cake prepared without leaven or yeast. It commemorates the first Passover when the Children of Israel hastily left Egypt without having time for the bread to rise.

Exhortation

Exhortation is the communication, or earnest attempt to persuade the recipient to take some action.

Perverse

Perverse is that which is resistant to guidance or discipline. It is marked by immorality, or deviates from what is considered right, good, or proper.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the influence that you have given us. Help us never to take our leadership responsibility for granted. Help us to demonstrate our appreciation to You by remaining faithful and attentive. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Concentration – Acts 20:7-12

And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. and there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

Observation

Have you ever fallen asleep in church? Has church ever taken so long that remaining in the spirit seemed impossible? In the case of Eutychus, he not only fell asleep, but while sleep, he fell out of the window, broke his neck and died. This catastrophic even interrupted Paul's preaching. Paul stopped preaching to minister to Eutychus, and bring him back to life. Like Eutychus, today's church has nodded off. All one has to do is to look at the loss of influence and relevancy today's church has on the culture, and it will conclude that the church has fallen asleep. It is bad to know that the church has fallen asleep, but it's worst to know that while asleep, many churches have fallen, and some of the falls have been fatal.

When the death of a church occurs, many begin mourning and planning the funeral, but the call of God is to raise that church back to life. We are not in the business to memorialize, but rather to resurrect.

Drugs have deadened our emotions. Our potential is being murdered by poverty and illiteracy. Our purpose is being assassinated by drugs and underground economies. Our families are dying daily from infidelity, pornography, and cyber-sex affairs. It's resurrection time! It's time to resurrect our communities! It's time to resurrect our family and friends. It's time to wake up the church – to bring it back to life.

Questions to Ponder?

1. When was the last time you caught someone sleeping in church? What did they miss while they were sleeping?

2. Name a person for which you have had, or have part responsibility for their personal faith and walk with Christ. How are they doing? Is there anything you wish you would have done differently?

Shepherding the Power

Day 23

Scripture of the Day

Acts Chapter 20

Power Quote

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Anonymous

Glossary

Savage Wolves

The metaphor savage wolves refers to the extreme danger and toxicity that false teachers pose to the church.

First Day of the Week

Because of the resurrection of Christ, the church began gathering for worship on Sunday, instead of the Sabbath, or Saturday.

Whole Counsel of God

When Paul speaks of the whole counsel of God, he refers to the entire purpose and plan of God, as it relates to salvation from sin, Christian living, and preparation to give an account on judgment day.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the influence that you have given us. Help us never to take our leadership responsibility for granted. Help us to demonstrate our appreciation to You by remaining faithful and attentive. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Concentration

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Acts 20:28

Compelling is a word often used to describe one’s call to ministry. Whether through a vision, word of prophecy, internal conviction, or revelation, the person “called” often feels like the Apostle Paul felt when he uttered the words, *“woe unto me if I preach not the gospel.”* Pastors, however, aren’t the only ones with a call.

My wife and I often discuss the call of God on my life as a preacher and pastor. We discuss this call with a holy awe, and divine reverence. Until recently, when we discussed her job and profession as a school teacher, we did so with less reverence or sacredness. That was of course until we took Acts 20:28 to heart. The same way God placed the call on my life to preach, teach, write, minister, and to pastor, He also placed a call on my wife’s life to minister through education.

How blind could we be? How could we not see her mission and ministry of teaching in a failing and fledging school system? How could we not see her ministry of building godly character and integrity? How could we not see the values of transforming a community through academic excellences and literary enhancement? How could we not see the value of her modeling morality? We need not remain blind. Whether an owner of a business, supervisor on a job, guardian over a minor, or a faithful and trusted friend; be assured that it is the Holy Ghost that place us in our positions of influence. The Holy Spirit has placed each of us at Zion for such a time as this. We have been placed here to stabilize and strengthen; grow and to guide; to renovate and re-invent the church, for such a time as this.

Questions to Ponder

1. Name 3 things that God has made you overseer of. How have you demonstrated your watchfulness over these 3 things? What needs more attention? How do you plan to address those items needing more attention?

2. Take the time to thank God for those who have influence and responsibility for you now. Thank God for those who had responsibility for you in the past.

Daddy Develops Daughters

Day 24

Scripture of the Day

Acts Chapter 21

Power Quote

The meaning of life is to give life meaning.

Warren W. Wiersbe

Glossary

Prophet

A prophet is a messenger of God to the people. Prophets often foretell and forth-tell through divine revelation the future acts and actions of God.

Prophetess

A female prophet.

Evangelist

An evangelist is a minister whose passion and calling focuses on the sharing of one faith for the expressed purpose of converting others to Christ.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the mentors, teachers, coaches, and leaders you placed in our lives. Help us to pay it forward to others. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Concentration

And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed. And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again. And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day. And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Acts 21:4-9

Observation

Tucked away in the book of Acts is a little known and often unread Scripture that speaks of Philip the evangelist and his four daughters who were prophetesses. The poignant point and principle of this Scripture can easily be missed.

Philip was one of the original deacons of the upstart New Testament Church. Philip progressed from a member of the church, to a leader of the church, to a leader of leaders within the church. And while his ministry accomplishments are noteworthy, his greatest accomplishment was the multi-generational influence that motivated his four daughters to follow his leadership footsteps.

In a patriarchal male dominated culture, Philip defied societal norms and developed his daughters to utilize their spiritual gifts and talents to fulfill significant voids and vacuums in ministry. They were not trained to be women prophets, they were trained for ministry, and they just happened to be women. The call of God on believers does not end with accepting Jesus and His teachings. It expands to using our leadership influence to impact multi-generations for the cause of Christ. That doesn't end with us, it must continue to our offsprings and those to whom God has called us to mentor.

Questions to Ponder

1. Name a person partly responsible for your growth and development in Christ. What is your relationship with that person now? How did they become influential in your Christian walk? Who are you influencing?

2. Name a person for which you have had, or have responsibility for their personal faith and walk with Christ. How are they doing? Is there anything you wish you would have done differently?
