

MINISTERING FREELY IN SHACKLES
(ACTS 22-26)
MAY 24, 2026



Paul ministered for years and over 7,000 miles, now he is confined and shackled, but the Gospel still goes forth. Your circumstances do not limit the power of the Gospel!

What shackles (limitations, resources, time, etc.) are you allowing to silence the Gospel through you?

1. Your testimony provides power in your ministry (Acts 22)

- Paul shares his Jewish credentials to show his training; equipping and experience matter
- Paul shares his encounter with Jesus to show his transformation
- Paul shares his calling to show his total devotion

2. Courage is provided when the enemy pressures you; faith over fear equals fight (Acts 23)

- Paul challenged the hypocrisy of the Sanhedrin; courage exposes hypocrisy
- Paul caused division over the truth of the resurrection; courage remains faithful to Truth
- Paul is protected from death; courage rests in the protection of God

3. Faithful in the Waiting; God's timing is always best but often not the most convenient (Acts 24)

- Paul's testimony remains clear, even in the waiting
- Paul continues to preach truth, even when it is not convenient
- Paul's case is delayed for two years: delays are not denials, but God works in the waiting

4. Persuasion done with Passion, even while in Prison (Acts 25-26)

- Lies must always be faced with truth and clear testimony
- Paul kept the focus on the fact: the resurrection of Jesus
- The resurrection changed Paul, and it can change kings like Agrippa
- Testimony can only lead people to Jesus, but it cannot force them to believe

Paul's shackles did not silence him, they strengthened his faith and his voice for Jesus

May our physical limitations (shackles) never restrict our freedom in Christ and obedience to Holy Spirit!

Go out in the confidence of the Gospel through Holy Spirit power in the truth of Jesus for the glory of God the Father!

1. Read Acts 22:6-16 and Revelation 12:11.

How does Paul's testimony shape your understanding of personal evangelism? Do you require a script to share your marriage story? What verses are important to your testimony? Write them out.

2. Read Acts 23:11 and Joshua 1:9.

What does God's promise to Paul teach about assurance in difficult seasons? How would you define courage? How does it relate to fear? What's an area in your life that you need courage?

3. Read Acts 24:24-25 and Galatians 5:22-23.

Why does Paul speak about righteousness, self-control, and judgment? What role does Holy Spirit play in these areas? Is the presence and power of Holy Spirit evident in your life? Explain.

4. Read Acts 24:27 and Isaiah 40:31.

Paul waited two years in prison. How do you respond to delays? What are some lessons that God teaches in periods of waiting? What is something you have learned during a time of delay?

5. Read Acts 25:19 and 1 Corinthians 15:14-20.

Why is the resurrection central to the Gospel? If there is no resurrection, then what is the result? Since there is the resurrection, what is the result? How does the resurrection shape your faith?

6. Read Acts 26:28-29 and Matthew 13:18-23.

King Agrippa was almost persuaded. What keeps people from full commitment to Jesus? How do the four soils illustrate levels of belief? Explain. Where do you see partial belief today?

7. Read Acts 26:29 and Philippians 1:12-14.

Paul desired others to be like him except for these chains. How can you maintain joy and outward focus in hardship? What does it look like when we wish these chains on others? What steps can you take this week to live out your faith with joy regardless of shackles?