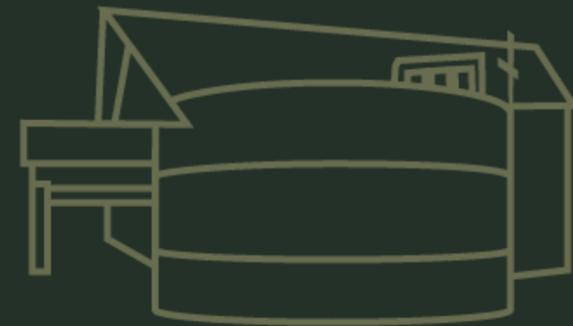


# ACTS



*The Story of the Church*



<sup>13</sup> Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup> The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

**EXODUS 14:13-14 NIV**

<sup>17</sup> Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him." <sup>18</sup> So he took him to the commander.

<sup>22</sup> The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: “Don’t tell anyone that you have reported this to me.” <sup>23</sup> Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. <sup>24</sup> Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.

<sup>32</sup> The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. <sup>33</sup> When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him. <sup>34</sup> The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup> he said, "I will hear your case when your accusers get here." Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's palace.

# God Fights Our Battles

- God works behind the scenes



GVLIELMVS TINDALE MARTYR  
OLIM EX AVLA MAGD.

<sup>2</sup> When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: “We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.

<sup>3</sup> Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. <sup>4</sup> But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.

**ACTS 24:2-4** NIV

<sup>5</sup> “We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect <sup>6</sup> and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. <sup>8</sup> By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.”

**ACTS 24:5-8** NIV

<sup>23</sup> In the end, people appreciate honest criticism far more than flattery.

**PROVERBS 28:23** NLT

<sup>10</sup> When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied "I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. <sup>11</sup> You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>12</sup> My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. <sup>13</sup> And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me.

**ACTS 24:10-13** NIV

<sup>14</sup> However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets,  
<sup>15</sup> and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. <sup>16</sup> So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

**ACTS 24:14-16** NIV

# God Fights our Battles

- God works behind the scenes
- Respond with joyful integrity

<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." <sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

**ACTS 24:24-26** NIV

<sup>16</sup> “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, <sup>18</sup> and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.

**MATTHEW 10:16-18** ESV

<sup>19</sup> When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. <sup>20</sup> For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

**MATTHEW 10:19-20** ESV

<sup>10</sup> Paul answered: “I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. <sup>11</sup> If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

**ACTS 25:10-11** NIV

<sup>19</sup> Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive. <sup>20</sup> I was at a loss how to investigate such matters; so I asked if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these charges. <sup>21</sup> But when Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."

**ACTS 25:19-21** NIV

22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear this man myself.” He replied, “Tomorrow you will hear him.”

**ACTS 25:22** NIV

# God Fights our Battles

- God works behind the scenes
- Respond with joyful integrity
- God overturns human wisdom

<sup>17</sup> For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power. <sup>18</sup> The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-18** NLT

<sup>26</sup> Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. <sup>28</sup> God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.

**1 COR. 1:26-28** NLT

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**1 CORINTHIANS 5:21 NIV**