

## Acts Part 26 - Unhindered

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 28:29-31 NASB95] 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.

- People are hindered. It is getting worse. Wokeism in extreme form, seeks to silence people. Lockdowns. Financial recessions. Inflation.
- God wants His people to be unhindered to fulfill His plan for our lives.
- The last word in Acts 28 according to the NASB is unhindered.

What, according to Acts 28, can we learn about what being unhindered means?

There are five things we can learn about being unhindered according to Acts 28.

### I. Being unhindered means, you learn how to be bitten but not bitter.

- a. [Act 28:3-5 NASB95] 3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they [began] saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." 5 However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.
- b. Church hurt. Have nothing against anyone.
- c. We must stop blaming and accusing God.
- d. Bad things happen. See Wednesday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 message.
- e. We forgive people and trust in the goodness of God while we go on with our purpose.

### II. Being unhindered means, you know who you are when the narrative changes.

- a. [Act 28:2-6 NASB95] 2 The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all. 3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they [began] saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." 5 However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and [began] to say that he was a god.
- b. Hero to zero to hero. You are not as good or as bad as people make you out to be.
- c. [Gal 1:10 NASB95] 10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.
- d. [Pro 29:25 NASB95] 25 The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.
- e. While we love people, we cannot allow their opinion of us to hinder us.

### III. Being unhindered means, you constantly have a miracle mindset.

- a. [Act 28:7-10 NASB95] 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. 8 And it happened that the father of Publius was lying [in bed]

**Acts Part 26 - Unhindered**  
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afflicted with [recurrent] fever and dysentery; and Paul went in [to see] him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. 9 After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured. 10 They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied [us] with all we needed.

- b. No matter the situation, never loose your connection to faith for miracles.
- c. V8 – prayed, laid hands, and healed him. Paul is shipwrecked on an island.
- d. [Act 4:30-31 NASB95] 30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and [began] to speak the word of God with boldness.
- e. [Rom 15:18-19 NASB95] 18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, 19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.
- f. This world is looking for hope. People are wanting us to give them hope by helping believe with them for miracles.
- g. At least try to help people receive a miracle.
- h. Never let go of the hope that God will work on your behalf.

**IV. Being unhindered means, you never stop declaring the Word of God with boldness.**

- a. [Act 28:23-31 NASB95] 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. 24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. 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.'" 28 "Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen." 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.
- b. Declare His Word to yourself and others. Do not let the devil get you off the Word.
- c. [Eph 6:19-20 NASB95] 19 and [pray] on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in [proclaiming] it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- d. [2Ti 4:2 NASB95] 2 preach the word; be ready in season [and] out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- e. Pray that God will help you to continue to declare the Word to yourself and to others.

## **Acts Part 26 - Unhindered**

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### **V. Being unhindered means, you know the work of the Kingdom is not finished.**

- a. Stanley Horton, ACTS Commentary, says Luke ends Acts suddenly. There is no formal ending. It goes on today.
  - b. We are continuing to write the book of Acts.
  - c. [Jhn 9:4 NASB95] 4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.
  - d. The work of the Kingdom is not done.
- **In these last days, we, the church, must be unhindered by not becoming bitter, knowing who we are in Christ, having a miracle mindset, while we continue to declare the Word of God with boldness knowing the work of the Kingdom of God is not finished.**
  - **What is hindering you? It is time to live unhindered.**