

“Face 2 Face With Opposition”

Don't Abort Your Mission!

Nov 19, 2017

The book of Acts is our playbook. It contains strategies fueled by the Holy Spirit power for healing, deliverance and ministry. Paul as a head coach encourages us to stay in the game no matter the opposition.



Acts 21:8-14 (NIV)

8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. **9** He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

10 After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. **11** Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

12 When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. **13** Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." **14** When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

Background of Text:

- Apostles traveling through different regions preaching the gospel and literally turning the world upside down - there was a impactful and noticeable difference everywhere they went.
- Phillip - deacon turned evangelist
- Agabus - Christian prophet
- Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost
- Paul was focussed and passionate about his assignment (contagious)
- The prophetic word was preparation not to prohibit him from going

1): Keep your head in the game

Be all in! An athlete always has the championship in mind

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- Philippi - Place where Paul and Silas were thrown into jail
- Always keep the mission/goal in front of you (laser focus)
- You have to see it before you can have it
- Your dedication to the mission will be tested
- Intentionally stretch towards your goal

2): Expect & Prepare for Opposition

There is a price to turn the world upside down for Christ, but the reward is eternal and much bigger than us.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

- Know your opponents tactics (football game prep - opposing team films - 50% of strategy)
- Know your opponents plays better than them
- Trials come to test our character

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

- Patiently endure
- Consistent practice (healthy regiment)
- Execution (show up)

Wonder Women Clip

You can't be a conqueror without conflict

You can't have a testimony unless you have a test

You can't declare encouragement if you haven't walked through disappointment

Challenge:

Your outlook determines your outcome

- What is your first response to opposition? How are you responding to your current situation (relationships, illness, addiction, or broken promises)?
- Remain passionate (gifts & talents)
- Be resilient (don't let offense take root)
- Declare His word (bible & promises) it's fact and living

Like Paul, don't lose your passion in life due to temporary situations. Your purpose is worth fighting for!

Remember you are a solution to someone's problem. Remain focused. Keep your head in the game. Sometimes we may have to re-strategize due to our opponent the devil but stay in the game!

What book has he told you to write? What job has he told you to apply for? What ministry has he told you to support in the church? What are you waiting for?

"Don't let opposition take you out of position" - Dave Hess