

**“Running Our Race”**  
**December 3, 2017**

**Acts 28:30-31**

With his end of days looming, Paul lived **“two whole years” (“in chains” Colossians 4:18) yet fully released to minister powerfully.** In Rome, under house arrest, he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. In addition, he ministered **“boldly”** and **“without (*internal*) hindrance”** he **“preached”** and **“taught”** about Jesus and His Kingdom.

**CORE: This baton is now in our hands. It’s our time for us to run our race.**

**1. VALUING THE ONE WE HAVE RECEIVED**

NOTE: We have received much more than a mission, a gifting, or a calling. We have received 3 Persons.

Paul wrote these words in chains in Rome: **“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” (Philippians 3:8 NLT).** NOTE: Ultimately, it was Paul’s deep value for his vibrantly intimate relationship with Jesus that moved him to “unquenchable acts.”

It’s why David **“served the purposes of God in his generation” (Acts 13:36).** He wrote - **“I say to the Knowable God...I have chosen You alone as my inheritance...I’m overwhelmed by the privileges that come from following You.” (Psalm 16:2,5,6 The Passion Translation)**

Earlier, Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers: **“Now we have not received the spirit that belongs to the world, but the Holy Spirit Who is from God, given to us that we might realize and comprehend and appreciate the gifts of divine favor and blessing so freely and lavishly bestowed on us by God.” (1 Corinthians 2:12 Amplified)**

**Here are some of the gifts we have received, empowering us to run our race:**

**2. INFLUENCE**

**“I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing...And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” Genesis 12:2-3 NIV**

**Psalm 19:7- “The testimony of the Lord (*i.e., God speaking into our lives*) makes us wise (*Lit.- successful and influential in every area of life*).”**

**Deuteronomy 28:13- “The LORD will make you the head, and not the tail.”**

### 3. TENACITY

Psalm 23:6- *"Your beauty and love chase after me every day" (MSG)*

God is tenacious! He pursues us relentlessly. His love never fails. His mercies never cease. His joy is eternal. And He never changes!

He has placed this same tenacity inside us!

Hebrews 10:23- He fills us with His "HOPE"—*"the tenacious capacity to hold fast to His promises!"*

### 4. The capacity to INVADE THE IMPOSSIBLE

*"For His divine power has bestowed on us [absolutely] everything necessary for [a dynamic spiritual] life and godliness, through true and personal knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." (2 Peter 1:3 AMP)*

We are DESTINED to INVADE THE IMPOSSIBLE! Our inheritance "in Christ"—Who constantly invaded the impossible:

- Healed demonically tormented boy (*when His disciples couldn't*)
- Freed the Gadarene demoniac (*when whole town avoided him*)
- Calmed the waves in the storm (*while His disciples doubted His love ("Don't You care?") and His power ("we will perish")*)

In Mark 11:12-14, Jesus cursed a FIG TREE for not bearing fruit—even though it was not the season for fruit (*i.e., winter*). Why??? Jesus has the RIGHT TO EXPECT IMPOSSIBLE FRUIT!

It is NORMAL for His followers to HAVE AN EXPECTANCY FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE!!!

NOTE: Toward the end of the Book of Acts, the term "extraordinary miracles" is used. It does not refer to rare exceptions—rather it speaks of *"fresh experiences opening new realms of ministry"*.

### CLOSING THOUGHT:

The One who is constantly WITH us and IN us—has gifted us with all we need to be powerful spiritual pioneers in our day!