



# KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

## SCRIPTURES

- Acts 5
- Matthew 12:31-32
- Romans 6, 8
- Proverbs 1, 8

Title:

## DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Disruptive Phenomenon
- Tsunami Approaching
- Immutable Momentum
- Sage Advice

*It's completely disruptive; but, not rude or inappropriate. It's innovation that simply attracts an under-serviced market. And, unfortunately for those who are used to dominating the field, it quickly supplants its incumbent competitors. It operates in such a way that significantly alters how consumers view the product they have come to expect and opens their eyes to something far better. Suddenly, it sweeps away the current entrenched systems and replaces them, because its attributes are recognizably superior.*

*Yes, "suddenly" also seems to be a character trait of disruption. It suddenly comes on like a five-hundred-mile-per-hour tsunami! And it seems to be energized by the same types of forces: earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, or other massive catastrophic disturbances. And just like a tsunami, it arrives with an overwhelming force that both crashes into objects and then consumes their broken debris as it is sucked back into the ocean.*

*And both the existing system and the new system share a set of characteristics which guarantee that an immutable force will impact an immovable object. But, in practice, the seemingly immovable object will turn out to be quite vulnerable in the end—it's just that the collision is so astronomical, so mammoth, so colossal that it takes some time to let the smoke, dust and debris settle. Then you can evaluate the devastation. Inevitably, the once entrenched, long-established, deep-rooted system will have given way to the new superior force.*

*The only variable that remains are the people caught in the waves. There are really only two sides here. One is the side of profound wisdom, erudite judicious perception. The other side is foolish obstinance—self-serving, power-hungry pride. The sage advice is this: If the immutable force is authentic, you can't stop it anyway, and if you try you will find yourself in a fight against God, and unless you think fighting God is a good idea—you should reconsider your position. However, if this whole disruption is a manmade farce, it will soon dissipate and fade into oblivion on its own, like a ripple in a lake caused by a small stone. So, take a step back and take a deep breath. Trust me, you don't want to be on the wrong side of history here.*

## PROPHETIC SEED:

*"...Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" Acts 5:4 NKJV*

*"So **great fear came upon all the church** and upon all who heard these things." Acts 5:11 NKJV*

*"so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that **at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.**" Acts 5:15 NKJV*

*"But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **"We ought to obey God rather than men."**" Acts 5:29 NKJV*

## PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for **if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.**” Acts 5:38-39 NKJV

## DISRUPTIVE PHENOMENON

### 1. The Sin that Leads to Death

#### A. Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-4)

##### (1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

(a) Premeditated Deception: Ananias and Sapphira, in control of their own resources, lie about their giving!

1. “But a certain man named **Ananias**, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. **And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part** and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? **While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”**” Acts 5:1-4 NKJV

(b) Ananias and Sapphira sold a personal possession.

1. “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and **divided them among all, as anyone had need.**” Acts 2:44-45 NKJV
2. “Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,” Acts 4:34 NKJV

#### B. The Consequence for Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:5-11)

##### (1) A Permanent Penalty

(a) Ananias and Sapphira died because they blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

1. “**Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last.** So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, “**Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?**” She said, “**Yes, for so much.**” Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to **test the Spirit of the Lord?** Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” **Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.** And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. **So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.**” Acts 5:5-11 NKJV

#### C. Before there was AI there was TI!

##### (1) True Intelligence (TI)

(a) The intelligence available to those who have access to the Holy Spirit!

1. ““I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever

He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come**. He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you**. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that **He will take of Mine and declare it to you.**" John 16:12-15 NKJV

2. "For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**" I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
3. "as **His divine power has given to us** all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:3-4 NKJV

(2) Artificial Intelligence (AI)

(a) Any form of intelligence that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

1. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that **exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV

(3) Disruptive Technology (AKA Disruptive Innovation)

(a) An innovation that significantly alters the way we operate.

1. "For **sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace**. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? **Certainly not!** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves **slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?** But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. **And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**" Romans 6:14-18 NKJV
2. "...For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so **now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness**. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:19-23 NKJV

(b) Sweeps away the systems or habits it replaces because it has attributes that are recognizably superior.

1. "But now He has obtained **a more excellent ministry**, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of **a better covenant, which was \*established [nomotheteó] on better promises.**" Hebrews 8:6 NKJV
2. "For **there is one God and one Mediator between God and men**, the Man Christ Jesus," I Timothy 2:5 NKJV
3. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**. For the law of **the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**" Romans 8:1-2 NKJV

(c) The new model attracts an under-served market and grows until it supplants its incumbent competitors.

1. "Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed** away; behold, all things have become new." II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
2. "But **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, **but the Spirit is life** because of righteousness. **But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**" Romans 8:9-11 NKJV

#### **D. Understanding what happened to Ananias and Sapphira**

##### **(1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and the Sin that Leads to Death**

###### **(a) Review: Lying to and Testing the Holy Spirit**

1. "But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?" Acts 5:3 NKJV
2. "Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" Acts 5:4b NKJV
3. "Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together **to test the Spirit** of the Lord? " Acts 5:9a NKJV

#### **E. The Foundation: The step-by-step path to the sin that leads to death as witnessed through Pharaoh in the time of Moses.**

##### **(1) Pharaoh's Decent into Darkness**

###### **(a) It starts off with Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh...**

1. "And Pharaoh said, "**Who is the LORD**, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? **I do not know the LORD**, nor will I let Israel go."" Exodus 5:2 NKJV

###### **(b) By the time we get to the second plague, frogs (swamp creatures), Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God—this will later leave him with no excuse!**

1. "**Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD** that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD." ...And he said, "**Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.**" Exodus 8:8-10 NKJV

###### **(c) Even his own spiritual advisors inform him that this is the true God during the third plague—Lice**

1. "Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "**This is the finger of God.**" But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said." Exodus 8:19 NKJV

###### **(d) The fourth Plague—Flies: He is the Lord, but He's your Lord. Pharaoh knows that Yahweh is God, but He will not accept him as his God.**

1. "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "**Go, sacrifice to your God** in the land."... So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may **sacrifice to the LORD your God** in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me."" Exodus 8:25, 28 NKJV

###### **(e) The home stretch to the point of no return—after the seventh plague of Fiery Hail: "I'm a sinner; Yahweh is righteous; pray for me." Can you see here that Pharaoh has now confessed that He needs Yahweh as his God?**

1. "And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, **"I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the LORD,** that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."" Exodus 9:27-28 NKJV
- (f) Pharaoh is right on the edge by the eight plague—Locusts: Look closely at his final decent into total darkness. Yahweh asks him how long he plans on refusing to humble himself?
  1. "So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, **"Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.'**" Exodus 10:3 NKJV
- (g) Pharaoh even receives a final warning from within his own camp: Don't you see?
  1. "Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? **Let the men go,** that they may serve the LORD their God. **Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?'"** Exodus 10:7 NKJV
- (h) Pharaoh's FINAL shot at repentance; is it real; will it stick? "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Please forgive my sin."
  1. "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, **"I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only."**" Exodus 10:16-17 NKJV
- (i) Then Darkness Descends over Egypt (Pharaoh) in the ninth plague. He can no longer repent as a response to God's chastisement. Instead, his fate is sealed by his own words.
  1. "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be **darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.**"... Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! **For in the day you see my face you shall die!"**" Exodus 10:21, 28 NKJV
  2. "So Moses said, **"You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."**" Exodus 10:29 NKJV
- (j) Before the Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh will not, CANNOT, turn back!
  1. "But the LORD said to Moses, **"Pharaoh will not heed you,** so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."" Exodus 11:9 NKJV
- (k) Death has come
  1. "And it came to pass at midnight that **the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne** to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for **there was not a house where there was not one dead.**" Exodus 12:29-30 NKJV
- (2) The Roots: **acknowledging Yahweh and then turn away!**
  - (a) Here's the turn—You, ON PURPOSE, choose to STILL go after false gods, after knowing the TRUE God, and believe it is OK and that Yahweh will STILL BLESS YOU...
    1. "And so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, **'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'**— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober." Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV
  - (b) Do you think you can do what you want and get away with it, turns and serve other gods after you claim to serve Yahweh? If you do so, you are sadly mistaken. Do that and Yahweh will **never be willing to forgive you!**

1. "The LORD **would not spare him**; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, **and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him**, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NKJV
  2. **NIV says it more clearly—"The Lord will never be willing to forgive them..."** Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV
- (c) Serving other gods and insisting that Yahweh will be okay with it!
1. "All nations would say, 'Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?' Then people would say: '**Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD** God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; **for they went and served other gods and worshiped them**, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them.'" Deuteronomy 29:24-26 NKJV

## F. The Warning

### (1) The Decent into Sin...

- (a) ...The Sin that leads to death!
  1. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, **that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us**. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. **If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life** for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." I John 5:14-17 NKJV
- (b) Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
  1. "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men**. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.**" Matthew 12:31-32 NKJV
  2. "Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "**This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.**" But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. **But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.** Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." Matthew 12:22-30 NKJV
- (c) Insulting the Spirit of Grace
  1. "For if we **sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of \*two or three**

**witnesses. Of how much worse punishment**, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace**? For we know Him who said, **“Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**” Hebrews 10:26-31

2. *“...There is sin **leading to death**. I do **not** say that he should **pray** about that.”* I John 5:16b

#### **G. The Theological Explanation of “Pharaoh’s decent into darkness.”**

- (1) No one says it better than Paul!

- (a) Romans Decent into Total Darkness: No excuses—punishment is coming—you have met all the legal requirements to commit “the sin that leads to death.”

1. “For **the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts**, and **their foolish hearts were darkened**. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts**, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **For this reason God gave them up to vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, **haters of God**, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death**, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:18-32 NKJV

2. *“...There is sin **leading to death**. I do **not** say that he should **pray** about that.”* I John 5:16b

- (b) The root of the sin that leads to death is a seared Conscience:

1. “Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience seared** with a hot iron,” I Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV
      2. “To the pure all things are pure, **but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure**; but even their mind and **conscience are defiled**.” Titus 1:15 NKJV

## TSUNAMI APPROACHING

### 2. Healing Shadows

#### A. God's Power on Full Display in the Church (Acts 5:12-16)

##### (1) Signs and Wonders & Esteemed Disciples

###### (a) They brought the sick out into the streets...

1. "And through the hands of the apostles **many signs and wonders** were done among the people. **And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.** Yet **none of the rest dared join them**, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, **so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.** Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and **they were all healed.**"  
Acts 5:12-16 NKJV

#### B. Characteristics of Power...

##### (1) Tsunami (of the Spirit)

###### (a) Tsunami ...a long high sea wave caused by an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or other **massive disturbance!**

1. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; **but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.**" John 16:7-8 NKJV
2. "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up**, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Acts 1:9 NKJV

###### (b) Tsunami ...an arrival or occurrence **of something in overwhelming** quantities or amounts.

1. "But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 NKJV
2. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:2-4 NKJV
3. "and **what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV

## IMMUTABLE MOMENTUM

### 3. Unfazed & Entrenched: Been There Done That...

#### A. Imprisoned Apostles Supernaturally Freed (Acts 5:17-21)

##### (1) Common Prison Uncommon Release

###### (a) Nothing will stop the Words of Life!



1. "Then **the high priest** rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the **Sadducees**), and they were **filled with indignation**, and laid their hands on the apostles and **put them in the common prison**. But at night **an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors** and brought them out, and said, "**Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.**" And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But **the high priest** and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and **sent to the prison to have them brought.**" Acts 5:17-21 NKJV

## B. Characteristics of a tenacious spirit to obey God...

### (2) Immutable

#### (a) Unchangeable

1. "For I am persuaded that **neither** death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" Romans 8:38-39 NKJV
2. "But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. **For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**" Acts 4:19-20 NKJV
3. "But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men.**" Acts 5:29 NKJV
4. "Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.** However, when the disciples gathered around him, **he rose up and went into the city.** And **the next day he departed** with Barnabas to Derbe. And **when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples**, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch," Acts 14:19-21 NKJV

### (3) Unfazed (be not dismayed)

#### (a) Not dismayed or disconcerted; undaunted

1. "I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand **I shall not be moved.**" Psalms 16:8 NKJV
2. "He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; **I shall not be moved.**" Psalms 62:6 NKJV
3. **[Context: Paul about false teachers]** "Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—**I am more:** in **labors** more abundant, in **stripes** above measure, in **prisons** more frequently, in **deaths** often. From the Jews **five times** I received forty **stripes** minus one. **Three times** I was **beaten** with rods; **once I was stoned** [Acts 14:19-21]; **three times** I was **shipwrecked**; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in **perils** of waters, in perils of **robbers**, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in **weariness** and toil, in sleeplessness often, in **hunger** and **thirst**, in fastings often, in cold and **nakedness**—**besides the other things**, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. **Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?** If I must boast, **I will boast in the things which**

**concern my infirmity.** The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was **let down in a basket** through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands." II Corinthians 11:22-33 NKJV

(4) Entrenched

(a) Ingrained

1. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, **And renew a steadfast spirit within me**. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And **do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**" Psalms 51:10-11 NKJV
2. "But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was **\*established** on better promises." Hebrews 8:6 NKJV
3. "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through His Spirit who dwells in you.**" Romans 8:11 NKJV
4. "**I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 NKJV
5. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live** in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV

**C. Corrupt Courts: On Trial Again (Acts 5:22-32)**

(1) The Driving Force: Testimony of Witnesses

(a) "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

1. "But when the officers came and **did not find them** in the prison, they returned and reported, saying, "**Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!**" Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. So **one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"** Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. And when they had brought them, **they set them before the council.** And the high priest asked them, saying, "**Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?** And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.** Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And **we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.**"'" Acts 5:22-32 NKJV

(b) Both we and the Holy Spirit are His witnesses!

1. ""One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**" Deuteronomy 19:15 NKJV

SAGE ADVICE

**4. If this is of God, you can't stop it!**

## A. Someone Needs to Think Rationally (Acts 5:33-42)

### (1) Gamaliel Weighs in on the Matter

(a) If this is of God, you can't stop it—unless you think fighting against God is a good idea

1. **"When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.** Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named **Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people,** and commanded them to **put the apostles outside** for a little while. And he said to them: **"Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men.** For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. **And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God."** And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and **beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.** So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.** And **daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**" Acts 5:33-42 NKJV

(b) There is one way to stop these followers of Y'shua—KILL THEM!

1. *"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city **at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law,** and was zealous toward God as you all are today."* Acts 22:3 NKJV
2. *"And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and **brought him to the council.**"* (Acts 6:12)
3. *"And all who sat in **the council,** looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel."* (Acts 6:15—last verse of chapter 15)
4. *"Then the **high priest** said, "Are these things so?""* (Acts 7:1)
5. *"and they cast him out of the city **and stoned him** [to death]. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named **Saul.**"* (Acts 7:58)

### (2) The Advice of a Man of Wisdom

(a) Wisdom in Action

1. *"As **messengers of death** is the king's wrath, **But a wise man will appease it.**"* Proverbs 16:14 NKJV
2. *"But **the wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is **sown in peace by those who make peace.**"* James 3:17-18 NKJV
3. *"The **way of a fool** is right in his own eyes, But he who **heeds counsel is wise.**"* Proverbs 12:15 NKJV
4. *"There is a way that **seems right to a man,** But its end is **the way of death.**"* Proverbs 14:12 NKJV

## B. Sage Characteristics

### (1) The Sage Man

(a) **Noun:** a profoundly wise man...

1. **"A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,"** Proverbs 1:5 NKJV
  2. **"Do not be wise in your own eyes;** Fear the Lord and depart from evil." Proverbs 3:7 NKJV
  3. **"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;** For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold." Proverbs 3:13-14 NKJV
  4. **"A wise man** is strong, Yes, a **man of knowledge** increases strength; For **by wise counsel** you will wage your own war, And in **a multitude of counselors** there is safety." Proverbs 24:5-6 NKJV
  5. "In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But **the lips of the wise will preserve them.**" Proverbs 14:3 NKJV
  6. **"The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way,** But the folly of fools is deceit." Proverbs 14:8 NKJV
  7. **"He who walks with wise men will be wise,** But the companion of fools will be destroyed." Proverbs 13:20 NKJV
  8. **"The fear of the Lord** is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is **humility.**" Proverbs 15:33 NKJV
  9. **"The wise in heart will be called prudent,** And sweetness of the lips **increases learning.**" Proverbs 16:21 NKJV
  10. "He who **gets wisdom** loves his own soul; He who **keeps understanding** will find good." Proverbs 19:8 NKJV
- (2) The Sage Way
- (c) **Adjective:** indicating profound wisdom...

1. **"To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—"** Proverbs 1:2-4 NKJV
2. **"The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7 NKJV
3. "Happy is the man who **finds wisdom,** And the man who **gains understanding;** For her **proceeds** are better than the **profits** of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more **precious** than rubies, And all the things you may desire **cannot compare** with her." Proverbs 3:13-15 NKJV
4. "For wisdom is **better than** rubies, And all the things one may desire **cannot be compared** with her. "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion." Proverbs 8:11-12 NKJV
5. "My **fruit is better** than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver. I traverse **the way of righteousness,** In the midst of the **paths of justice,**" Proverbs 8:19-20 NKJV
6. **"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting,** From the beginning, before there was ever an earth." Proverbs 8:22-23 NKJV (Read 8)
7. "How much **better to get wisdom** than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." Proverbs 16:16 NKJV
8. "My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; **So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect [future],** And your **hope** will not be cut off." Proverbs 24:13-14 NKJV
9. Wisdom in Action: *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."* Romans 8:5 NKJV