

# SPREAD THE WORD

A SERIES IN ACTS

## Suffering For Christ's Sake

Acts 5:12 – 42

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CHURCH

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

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**Acts 5:12–42** Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. **13** None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. **14** And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, **15** so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. -

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16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. 17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy 18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” -

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**21** And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. **22** But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, **23** “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” -

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24 Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. 25 And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” 26 Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, -

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28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” -

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33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. -



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37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. 38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. -

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41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. (ESV)

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

I. The church is an amazing place.

A. A place where incredible things happen in the lives of God's people.

*12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles.*

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

I. The church is an amazing place.

B. A place of intimate unity and respect.

*And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.*

- *Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers  dwell in unity!*

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

I. The church is an amazing place.

B. A place of intimate unity and respect.

- *Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
- *1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

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I. The church is an amazing place.

C. A place of growth and development.

- *14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,*

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

I. The church is an amazing place.

D. A place of restoration and healing.

*15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.*



# Suffering for Christ's Sake

II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

A. As we endure opposition.

*17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy*

*18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.*

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

B. As we rest in God's deliverance.

*19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” 21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.*

- *John 8:32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

B. As we rest in God's deliverance.

- *Galatians 5:13* For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- *1 Peter 5:6* Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

C. As we persevere through trials.

*27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”*

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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

C. As we persevere through trials.

- *1 Corinthians 4:10-12 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. 11 To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, 12 and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure;*

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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

C. As we persevere through trials.

- *John 15:20-21 Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.*

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

D. As we seek to obey God rather than men.

*29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."* -

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# Suffering for Christ's Sake

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D. As we seek to obey God rather than men.

- *Exodus 32:23 For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' 24 So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."*

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D. As we seek to obey God rather than men.

- *1 Samuel 15:24 Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.”*

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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

E. Knowing that God is at work on our behalf.

*34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four -*

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*if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail;  
39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to  
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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

F. As we rejoice in our suffering.

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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

F. As we rejoice in our suffering.

- *James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

G. As we remain determined to complete our mission.

*42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.*



# Suffering for Christ's Sake

II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

G. As we remain determined to complete our mission.

- *2 Timothy 4:1-2 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

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II. We need to remain faithful in our suffering.

G. As we remain determined to complete our mission.

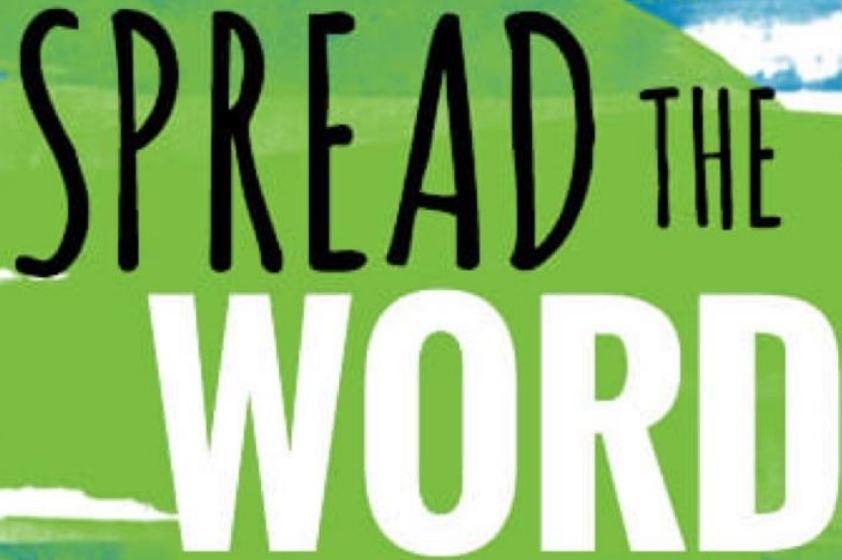
- *1 Corinthians 9:16 ...Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

# Suffering for Christ's Sake

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The church is an amazing place where incredible things happen in the lives of God's people. It is a place of intimate unity and respect, a place of growth and development, and a place of restoration and healing. But we need to remain faithful in our suffering for Christ's sake as we endure opposition, as we rest in God's deliverance, as we persevere through trials, as we seek to obey God rather than men. Knowing that God is at work on our behalf behind the scenes, we can rejoice in our suffering and remain determined to complete our mission in proclaiming to the world that Jesus is the Christ.

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