



CUNNING

Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

1/3 rd – In the Beginning	2/21 st O – Hist./Wis Lt.?	4/17 th O – Epistles
1/10 th – O.T. Pent. The Battle Begins: Part I	2/28 th RCB-Wk.8 MIC	4/24 th O – Revelation
1/17 th RCB Prayer: Having the Conversation	3/6 th - JESUS Says Part I	WILL THIS SERIES GO UNTIL MAY? Can You See The End From Here? It's Been in the Plan Since Genesis
1/24 th – O.T. The Battle	3/13 th O Jesus Says Part II	▪ Chew On This Podcast-drops Thur pm/Fri am-moving to our radio station WAJC 91.7/88.1 FM in February-Thursdays @8:30-9:30a
1/31 st – RCB Prophetic	3/20 th O – What John Saw	
2/7 th – Water Baptism	3/27 th O – Acts I (Easter is 3/31 st)	
2/14 th RCB -Ordinances?	4/3 rd O – Acts II	
	4/10 RCB – Pauline Lit.	

- STUDY NOTES: Pr. Mike and Pr. Orleen's and Pr. Robin's sermon series and study notes.
- Kingdom Principles – Hayford, J. W. 1995. Hayford's Bible handbook. Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville
- BOOK: Cook, W. F., III, & Lawless, C. (2019). *Spiritual warfare in the storyline of scripture*. B&H Academic.
- Handouts: Week 1: Angelic Beings, H.O. of Week 1 Outline Notes. Week 2: H.O. of Week 2 Outline Notes, Week 3: Prayer reference: Sequence of Power Week 5: Daniel's Timeline
- Week 9: Wilderness Lesson H.O. Week 10: IN17 H.O

CUNNING: The Spiritual Battle from Genesis to Revelation

I am sending you out like sheep amongst wolves...Matthew 10:16

so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. NRSV

Luke 10:3 *Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.*

Romans 16:19 *For your obedience is known to all; therefore, I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and guileless in what is evil. NRSV*

Our Definition of CUNNING: ~~Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion.~~

Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by: **Knowledge. Wisdom. Shrewdness. Skill. Resourcefulness. Cleverness. Practice.**

WEEK 13: The ACTS of Battle, Part II

(all verses NKJV unless otherwise noted)

Now the Battle becomes more Personal

Part I recap:

Role of misguided (i.e. Peter)

Constant attempts of the Enemy to force Proverbs 6:16-19 to stop the church/ ❤️ of Jesus Christ from growing.

Proverbs 6:16-19

*These six things the Lord hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:*

¹⁷ A proud look, (arrogance)

A lying tongue,

Hands that shed innocent blood, (murderer)

¹⁸ A heart that devise (plots) wicked plans, (plotter)

Feet that are swift in running to evil,

¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies, (false witness)

And one who sows discord among brethren.

(discordant)

Fault Finding (It's THEIR Fault!) / **Assigning intent:** [When our perception overshadows our understanding] /

Justification (I am right in doing this because...)

- The book of Acts Immediately follows Jesus' – DBR
- Records 30 years of the New Church's growth.
- **ACTS is where we see THE CHURCH taking over the battle:**

REMINDER: Our Definition of CUNNING: ~~Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion.~~

Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by:

Knowledge. Wisdom. Shrewdness. Skill. Resourcefulness. Cleverness. Practice.



CUNNING
 Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
 2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

Luke records the early church’s response to satanic resistance to the church’s advancement into the Greco-Roman world:

- Satan is mentioned **specifically** in only four passages in the book of Acts:
 1. Ananias & Saphira → Acts 5:1-11 – Recognize Sin and its Consequences
 2. Peter & Cornelius Acts →10:30-48 – Bringing Freedom
 3. Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus (w/ Elymas the sorcerer) →Acts 13:1-12 – Standing up to Evil
 4. Paul before King Agrippa →Acts 26:12-18 – Sharing his testimony
- Enemy’s **influence** is manifested throughout the book.
- **Demons are specifically** mentioned in 5:16; 8:5–8; 16:16; and 19:12, 13–20.

View of the Church in Acts Acts 4:42-47

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine[teaching] and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear [deep sense of awe] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Ananias & Saphira → Acts 5:1-11 – We battle to...**Recognize sin. Realize Consequences** (not a game)
 Peter & Cornelius Acts →10:30-48 – We battle to...**Bring Freedom**
 Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus (w/ Elymas the sorcerer) →Acts 13:1-12 – We battle to **Stand up to Evil**
 Paul before King Agrippa →Acts 26:12-18 – We battle to **Testify**

THE FOUR ACTS of Battle

#1: Ananias & Sapphira – Acts 5:1-11

If this BATTLE now becomes more personal, WHAT do we DO?

- Do no over estimate yourself when it comes to temptation and sin.
- FLEE from temptation. AS THERE ARE ALWAYS CONSEQUENCES which will demand more than we ever thought we would pay.

James 4:7-8a Humility Cures Worldliness

⁷ Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Am I Ready?



CUNNING
Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

PART II

Ananias & Saphira → Acts 5:1-11 – We battle to...**Recognize sin. Realize Consequences** (not a game)
Peter & Cornelius Acts →10:30-48 – We battle to...**Bring Freedom**
Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus (w/ Elymas the sorcerer) →Acts 13:1-12 – We battle to **Stand up to Evil**
Paul before King Agrippa →Acts 26:12-18 – We battle to **Testify**

THE FOUR ACTS of Battle

#2: Peter and the Household of Cornelius (Bringing FREEDOM=reaching up into the supernatural realm and pulling it down into the natural world.)

Acts 10:38

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

BACKSTORY: Acts 10:1-29

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³ About the ninth hour of the day [3PM] he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” ⁴ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.” ⁷ And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. ⁸ So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter’s Vision

⁹ The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. ¹⁰ Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ¹³ And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” ¹⁴ But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” ¹⁵ And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” ¹⁶ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

Summoned to Caesarea

¹⁷ Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon’s house, and stood before the gate. ¹⁸ And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. ¹⁹ While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you. ²⁰ Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.” ²¹ Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, “Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?” ²² And they said, “Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.” ²³ Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

Peter Meets Cornelius

²⁴ And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I myself am also a man.” ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. ²⁸ Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ²⁹ Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”



CUNNING
 Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
 2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

10:30-48

³⁰ So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' ³³ So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

Preaching to Cornelius' Household

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— ³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**

³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission^[1] of sins."

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Main Verse of Acts 10:38

³⁸ how God **anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**

James 2:6

But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich **oppress** you and drag you into the courts?

katadynasteuō is a verb found only twice. In both instances it means "to oppress" with the **underlying sense of being harassed or tormented**. In Acts 10:38 such activity is predicated of the devil. Jas. 2:8 accuses the rich of such behavior towards the poor.¹

¹ [Oppress, Oppression](#). (2005). In S. D. Renn (Ed.), *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words: Word Studies for Key English Bible Words Based on the Hebrew and Greek Texts* (p. 703). Hendrickson Publishers.



CUNNING
Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

1. Being anointed with the Holy Spirit

Kapp, J. W. (1915). [Anoint, Anointed](#). In J. Orr, J. L. Nuelsen, E. Y. Mullins, & M. O. Evans (Eds.), *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* (Vols. 1–5, p. 138). The Howard-Severance Company.

ANOINT, a-noint', **ANOINTED**, a-noint'ed (ἀλείφω, *aleíphō*, χρίω, *chríō*): Refers to a very general practice in the East. It originated from the relief from the effect of the sun that was experienced in rubbing the body with oil or grease. Among rude people the common vegetable or animal fat was used. As society advanced and refinement became a part of civilization, delicately perfumed ointments were used for this purpose. Other reasons soon obtained for this practice than that stated above. Persons were anointed for health (Mk 6:13), because of the widespread belief in the healing power of oil. It was often employed as a mark of hospitality (Lk 7:46); as a mark of special honor (Jn 11:2); in preparation for social occasions (Ruth 3:3; 2 Sam 14:2; Isa 61:3).

The fig. use of this word (*chríō*) has reference strictly to the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the individual (Lk 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38). In this sense it is God who anoints (He 1:9; 2 Cor 1:21). The thought is to appoint, or qualify for a special dignity, function or privilege. It is in this sense that the word is applied to Christ (Jn 1:41 m; Acts 4:27; 10:38; He 1:9; cf Ps 2:2; Dnl 9:25). See also ANOINTING.

2. And With Power

If this BATTLE now becomes more personal, WHAT do we DO?

John 5:19-21

¹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.** ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

John 14:12-13

¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.** ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Hebrews 5:13-14 NRSV

¹³ for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

Recognize what is evil and stand up against it/expose it.

Matt 10:27 NRSV

What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, **proclaim from** the housetops.

- Learn to distinguish it from practice
- Being anointed by the Holy Spirit

Be Brave...ASK FOR THIS POWER!

[truly care for others. ASK for miracles, healings, energy to be WITH others. Live healthy. Not give in to temptations of this world. Boundaries.]

List: One thing that stands in my way of being WITH/ministering to others.

Am I Ready? [SONG: Be bold, Be strong...for the Lord thy God is with you...]



CUNNING
 Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
 2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

Ananias & Saphira → Acts 5:1-11 – We battle to...**Recognize sin. Realize Consequences** (not a game)
 Peter & Cornelius Acts →10:30-48 – We battle to...**Bring Freedom**
 Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus (w/ Elymas the sorcerer) →Acts 13:1-12 – We battle to **Stand up to Evil**
 Paul before King Agrippa →Acts 26:12-18 – We battle to **Testify**

THE FOUR ACTS of Battle

#3: Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus (with Elymas [el' a mus] the sorcerer = evil opposition)

Acts 13:10

and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?”

BACKSTORY: Acts 13:1-12

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Preaching in Cyprus

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.

*⁶ Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a **Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus**, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But **Elymas the sorcerer** (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ Then Saul, who also is called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹ And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.*

Acts 13:6–12: Opposition by Elymas the Magician on Cyprus

The third reference to Satan in Acts appears in this passage. Barnabas and Saul’s initial stop on their first missionary journey took them to the island of Cyprus. They traveled to Paphos, where they encountered a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus (“son of Jesus”). Earlier Saul (Paul) and Barnabas were identified as “prophets and teachers,” setting the stage for a battle between them and the false prophet (13:1). The false prophet is identified also by the name “Elymas the sorcerer” (*magos*). Apparently, Elymas held great sway over the proconsul Sergius Paulus, likely being an advisor. This is the second encounter missionaries have had with a magician (8:9–11, 18–24).

Luke described in some detail Saul’s encounter with Elymas:

First, Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit, indicating that his actions were not capricious but under the Spirit’s control.

Second, Paul looked straight into Elymas’s eyes as he spoke to him, confronting him face-to-face, demonstrating great courage and not the slightest hint of fear.

Third, Paul accused him of being “full of all kinds of deceit and trickery” (13:10) in contrast to Paul being “filled with the Spirit” (v. 9a).



CUNNING
 Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
 2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

Fourth, DEFINED HIM -Elymas is “a son of the devil and enemy of all that is right” (v. 9b). Jesus used similar language when speaking of the religious leadership that opposed him (John 8:44; cf. Matt 13:38). Instead of being a “son of the Savior” (Bar-Jesus), Elymas was a child of God’s ultimate enemy.

Fifth, by use of a rhetorical **question**, Paul indicated that his opponent was seeking to keep the proconsul from following the Lord. [exposed his tactics]

Sixth, as Elijah **announced God’s judgment** on the false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Paul pronounced judgment on this false prophet. The result was immediate, as blindness came on him. The limited time of the blindness would hopefully result in Bar-Jesus “seeing the light” of the gospel. As a result of the encounter between Paul and Elymas, Sergius Paulus trusted in Christ. So just as the gospel advanced in Samaria, so it did on Cyprus.

As the gospel goes into unreached areas, satanic resistance is to be expected. Whether he uses sorcerers, or shamans, or persecution, Satan will not concede ground easily. Mission teams should expect strong opposition to the preaching of the gospel. They must be Spirit-filled and prepared to experience spiritual warfare. The sort of encounter described in this passage should likely be understood as an illustrative vignette, that is, the type of encounter that can be anticipated when preaching to unreached people groups.

Notice in this passage how a significant political figure seemed to be under the sway of a “son of the devil.” Sergius Paulus very likely sought advice from Elymas. We should not limit the influence of Satan merely to the personal choices people make in their private spiritual lives. Here is an example where political decisions may have been influenced by Satan. Therefore, we should not be surprised when governments pass laws forbidding the sharing of the gospel and advocate the persecution of Christians. What is true in the political arena is likely true as well in entertainment and culture.

Finally, the power of God and the gospel overwhelmed the forces of darkness. Satan was unable to keep the Roman proconsul in the grip of the false prophet. God brought salvation to one and a temporary judgment to the other.

Cook, W. F., III, & Lawless, C. (2019). [Spiritual warfare in the storyline of scripture](#) (pp. 96–97). B&H Academic.

If this BATTLE now becomes more personal, WHAT do we DO? Stand up to Evil

Am I Ready?

Ananias & Saphira → Acts 5:1-11 – We battle to...**Recognize sin. Realize Consequences** (not a game)
 Peter & Cornelius Acts →10:30-48 – We battle to...**Bring Freedom**
 Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus (w/ Elymas the sorcerer) →Acts 13:1-12 – We battle to **Stand up to Evil**
 Paul before King Agrippa →Acts 26:12-18 – We battle to **Testify**

THE FOUR ACTS of Battle
#4: Paul before King Agrippa

Acts 26:18

to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

BACKSTORY: Acts 26:12-18

Herod Agrippa II – King (allowed to rule by Rome?)

Agrippa II, like his father, **Agrippa I**, was raised in the Roman imperial court. He was born in Rome in 27 CE and was given the Roman name Marcus Julius Agrippa, after his great-grandfather’s patrons Marcus Antonius (Marc Antony), Gaius Julius Caesar, and Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa.²

² Losch, R. R. (2008). In [All the People in the Bible: An A–Z Guide to the Saints, Scoundrels, and Other Characters in Scripture](#) (p. 153). William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.



CUNNING
Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

- ‘Their founder, Herod the Great’, wrote R. B. Rackham, ‘had tried to destroy the infant Jesus.
- His son Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee [*one of Rome’s four joint rulers*], beheaded John the Baptist, and won from the Lord the title of “fox”.
- His grandson Agrippa I slew James the son of Zebedee with the sword.
- Now we see Paul brought before Agrippa’s son.’

phantasia is a rare noun found only in Acts 25:23 indicating the “splendor” of King Agrippa.³

Festus – Procurator of Judea (commissioned to rule by Rome)
Bernice – King Agrippa’s sister

This was an occasion filled with pagan pomp and pageantry. It was a state function filled with fanfare and the blowing of trumpets. There was the tapestry and tinsel. The function was attended by all the prominent personages of that section and the prestige of Rome. There must have been a scramble for people to be able to attend this occasion. The purple of Agrippa and the pearls of Bernice were in evidence. There were the gold braid and the brass hats of the Roman Empire. The elect and the elite, the intelligentsia and the sophisticates had all turned out in full regalia. There would be the pride and ostentation and the dignity and display which only Rome could put on parade in that day.⁴

Agrippa and Paul. What a contrast! One of them is in purple, the other is in prison garb. One is on a throne, the other is in shackles. One wears a crown, the other is in chains. Agrippa is a king, but in the slavery of sin. Paul is a chained prisoner, rejoicing in the freedom of sins forgiven and liberty in Christ. Agrippa is an earthly king who could not free Paul nor himself. Paul is an ambassador of the King who had freed him and who could free Agrippa from the damning effects of sin.⁵

¹² “While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, ¹³ at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. ¹⁷ I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ **to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.**’

¹⁹ “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. ²¹ For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill *me*. ²² Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said

³ [Splendor](#). (2005). In S. D. Renn (Ed.), *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words: Word Studies for Key English Bible Words Based on the Hebrew and Greek Texts* (p. 924). Hendrickson Publishers.

⁴ McGee, J. V. (1991). [Thru the Bible commentary: Church History \(Acts 15-28\)](#) (electronic ed., Vol. 41, p. 144). Thomas Nelson.

⁵ McGee, J. V. (1991). [Thru the Bible commentary: Church History \(Acts 15-28\)](#) (electronic ed., Vol. 41, pp. 145–146). Thomas Nelson.



CUNNING
Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

would come—²³ that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles.”

Agrippa Parries Paul’s Challenge

²⁴ Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!”

²⁵ But he said, “I am not ²⁴mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. ²⁶ For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”

²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”

²⁹ And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”

³⁰ When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; ³¹ and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, “This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains.”

³² Then Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Acts 26:18

to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

If this BATTLE now becomes more personal, WHAT do we DO?

Testify

Am I Ready?(engage)

Ananias & Saphira → Acts 5:1-11 – We battle to...**Recognize sin. Realize Consequences** (not a game)

Peter & Cornelius Acts →10:30-48 – We battle to...**Bring Freedom**

Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus (w/ Elymas the sorcerer) →Acts 13:1-12 – We battle to **Stand up to Evil**

Paul before King Agrippa →Acts 26:12-18 – We battle to **Testify**

Inaugurational Prayer Acts 4:29-31

CEB Now, Lord, take note of their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your word with complete confidence. ³⁰ Stretch out Your hand to bring healing and enable signs and wonders to be performed through the name of Jesus, Your holy servant.” ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking God’s word with confidence.



Demons Mentioned:

Acts 8:5–8, 9-25

Then Philip went down to ^[a]the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 16:16-34 – demon possessed slave girl – Philippian Jailer saved

¹⁶ Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” ¹⁸ And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly ^[a]annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour. ¹⁹ But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

²⁰ And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; ²¹ and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.” ²² Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. ²³ And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Saved

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Acts 19:12–20 – Seven sons of Sceva

¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, ^[a]“We ^[b]exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” ¹⁴ Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”



CUNNING
Week 13: ACTS of Battle, Part II
2024 WINTER SERIES - Wednesday Night Church

¹⁶ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, ^[e]overpowered them, and prevailed against ^[d]them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. ¹⁸ And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. ¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.