



The last half of the book of Acts reveals the amazing story of how the Jesus' community became a global movement, and it reveals keys to how it has remained so. There is so much to apply as we explore how we can “proclaim the kingdom of God with all boldness and without hindrance.”

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began this message by sharing an example in Acts 21 of how the prophetic ministry was active in the early church. Do you believe God still gives people prophetic words to share with others today? If so, how can we do that in a healthy way that does not try to control others or manage the outcomes?

Note: before you move to the rest of the questions, remind everyone of the context of Acts 21 and Paul's example (you may want to read **Acts 21:4-39** together).

2 PAUL NEVER... gave in because he gave up. Some godly people give Paul some advice but he chooses not to follow it. How did Paul know that he was on the right path when other followers tried to convince him otherwise? How do you discern the will of God when you are in similar circumstances?

3 PAUL SURRENDERED... the expectation that following Jesus would be easy or safe. When Paul offered Jesus a life of obedience, he did not expect a life of convenience in return. And neither should we. What are some ways we often make following Jesus “easy or safe” (personally and as a church)?

4 Read Luke 9:23-24. How would you explain the way to “save your life” to someone else? Why do you think Jesus specifically commanded His disciples to “take up their cross **daily** and follow me”?

5 PAUL SURRENDERED... his freedom for the sake of the gospel. When Paul was being slandered, the church leaders suggested that he do something to tangibly express his allegiance to the Jewish people (see **Acts 21:17-26**). He knew the gospel gave him the right to refuse their suggestion but Paul was always willing to surrender freedom for the sake of the mission. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-21.** Rick reminded us that “A truly liberated Christian is never in bondage to their freedom. They will sacrifice preference for deference for the sake of the gospel.” Share some examples of how you've seen others sacrifice their “preference” for the sake of the gospel. How might you need to do the same?

6 PAUL SURRENDERED... his sufferings to the purposes of God. Paul was willing to suffer so that the mission of God would not have to. Share some examples of someone who surrendered their sufferings for the purposes of God. How does this encourage your faith journey?

7 Surrender brings victory! Rick closed by noting that “We may not always know what is best, but we can trust that God will do what is best for any totally surrendered life.” As you reflect on Paul's example, what is one area in your life where you still need to totally surrender?

