

## The Furtherance of the Gospel

...that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel...

Philippians 1:12

It is apparent that God often uses human instrumentality in working out His divine plan. The patriarchs were used to plant His people in the world, prophets were used to instruct and warn His people, the apostles were used to pen the scriptures, and even God's only begotten son became flesh. The promulgation of the message of salvation "spoken" through words and good deeds has also been entrusted to man.

When a person commits their life to Christ, it is the beginning of a relationship with God that is to grow daily, while simultaneously testifying of the life changing power of the gospel to others. The impact of the apostle Paul's life in every place he journeyed is an example of this. In foreign lands, in synagogues, in market places, and even when his own plan seems to be interrupted, he continues to shine the light of the gospel.

Just prior to His ascension Jesus' last words were for us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Our words and actions when supported by prayer can make a difference in another person's life. Letting our light shine should be woven into every plan and activity of our life. And remember, as today's text shows, sometimes our plans get disrupted in order for the Gospel to continue in a location designed by God. Because of persecution, the early disciples were scattered abroad but went everywhere preaching the word. Philip found himself in a barren desert crossing paths with an Ethiopian who was desirous to hear the gospel. Peter goes to the house of an unclean Gentile to share the good news. And Paul who previously sent Christians to prison, finds the opportunity to advance the gospel as a prisoner himself. Interruptions are, as one person said, the fortune of misfortune. Could it be at a grocery store, or a gas station, or walking in a park, or in a waiting room, or even when our plans get sidetracked... there is an opportunity to share the greatest news a person could hear?

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