

JUST DO IT!

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Have you ever experienced going into God's Word daily, studying and asking Him to reveal Himself to you, and you always get the same answers, day after day? Well, you are not alone.

It has been weeks since the Lord has been telling me the same thing over and over again. And what is that, you may ask? ... "Just do it!"

Studying the book of Acts reminded me of stories of how the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ took into heart the mission of Christ to declare the Gospel. What fascinates me is that they did it in spite of their circumstances, and I tell you, that most, if not all, are not sunshine and rainbows. Life and death situations awaited them and yet, they faithfully and boldly fulfilled the work that the Lord tasked and empowered them to do.

There was Stephen who was stoned to death after boldly proclaiming who Christ is. His last words were "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60), pertaining to the people who stoned him. I can only imagine his dedication and faithfulness to fulfill what the Lord wanted to do, that even on the brink of death,

he showed love to the people who hurt him and wanted him dead because he knew that it would bring glory to God.

Then, there was James. James was the brother of John and in Acts 12, it talks about how Herod killed James by the sword when he did acts of violence on some who belonged to the church. James' death even pleased the Jews, and this led to another apostle, Peter, who later suffered imprisonment.

The life of Paul was no different. Though Paul, originally Saul, was first described in the Bible as someone who persecuted the church. The Lord revealed Himself to him on the road to Damascus as Paul submitted and obeyed. In Acts 9, we also see how Paul, after his conversion, started proclaiming Jesus in synagogues. He escaped death because the Jews planned to kill him. But these circumstances did not stop him from doing the work of Christ because he knew that he was called by the Lord to proclaim the Gospel.

In our daily lives, we also encounter daily challenges and struggles as we live our

lives for the Lord. Though we strive and fight to be faithful, sometimes, our situations may call us to just raise our hands in surrender and throw the towel, so to speak. But as believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to do and persevere to do what God wants done, only by His grace. This truth should motivate us to continue pressing on and claim victory in Christ.

No matter what your circumstances may be right now, find strength and hope in the Lord because you are already victorious. Our challenges and discouragements should not prevent us from doing what the Lord wants to accomplish. If we truly believe in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, we are not to fear anything because Jesus conquered death and that should give us comfort and hope amidst great trials and persecutions of any kind.

As we face life, embrace who you are in Christ. Embrace God's grace. Emerge victorious! ✦