

 ***“The Will of the Lord Be Done!”***

 ACTS Chapter 21

# *> (v1-7) God’s Will: Communion with Believers!*

# Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

# *-* The early church laid the foundation for fellowship in Acts 2:41-42*- And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*.

# *- Three keys:*

***Key #1 - Find Disciples (church, neighbors, work, school, etc.)***

***Key #2 - Pray Together (Who are you praying for in the church?)***

***Key #3 - Family Worship (devotions, prayer, attending church)***

**> *The Disciples Spiritual Growth:***

**- *Grow in Fruitfulness!* - 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,* (Right in life, heart, mind.)**

**- *Grow into Christ!* - Ephesians 4:15-16 - *speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.***

**- *Grow in Love!* - 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - *And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you***

**- *Grow unto Perfection!* - Hebrews 6:1 - *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,***

***- Grow through the Word!* - 1 Peter 2:2-3 - *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.***

**- *Grow in Maturity!* - 2 Peter 1:5-8 - *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***- Grow in Grace & Knowledge!* - 2 Peter 3:18 *- grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior* *Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever.***

# *> (v7-14) God’s Will for the Believer!*

**(7-11) Observe the description of Paul’s Christian companions - Philip the evangelist**

**- Herbert Lockeyer describes Philip “as one who was not content to serve tables, he loved to preach the Word, and was most successful in revival work. He was not a man to act on his own authority. He was a God-sent and Spirit-controlled evangelist (Acts 8:26-30). When the Spirit said, “Go,” he obeyed with promptness in response, with a *cheerful* readiness.**

**After the martyrdom of Stephen, Philip preached in Samaria with great success (Acts 8:4-8). He led the Ethiopian to Christ and was the means of introducing Christianity to a heathen country (Acts 8:26-39). He preached from city to city until he reached Caesarea (Acts 8:40). He had a *godly* home (Acts 21:8), in which Paul loved to stay, for he and Philip were like-minded.”**

## Philip’s daughters prophesied! - Possibly foretelling of future events and speaking forth God’s Word to encourage, exhort and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

**- Agabus, a certain prophet - Warned Paul in his prophetic illustration; he was not prohibiting Paul from going.**

**(v12-13) Here we see Paul’s response to danger; he was a dedicated servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Honor, courage, and duty would simply describe this soldier of the Lord.**

**When Paul knew he was finishing his work for God he declared, *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”* (2 Timothy 4:6-8)**

**(v14) Paul’s dedication- *“The will of the Lord be done.”* What is God’s will for our lives?**

***#1 - To know God’s Word (doctrine) - John 7:17***

***#2 - To be transformed - Romans 12:1-2***

***#3 - To live a sanctified life – 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8***

***#4 - To give thanks – 1 Thessalonians 5:18***

***#5 - To suffer for Christ – 1 Peter 3:17; 4:19***

***> (v15-40) God’s Will in Tumultuous Times!***

**(v15-20a) Paul shares his missionary and ministry accomplishments to the GLORY OF GOD!**

**- Believers be encouraged and be used for the glory of the LORD! - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 - *For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God -- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption -- that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."***

**Also, be a blessing to the one who shares God’s glorious work with you. -Romans 12:15-16- *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble.***

**(v20b-26) Why the legalism? Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23- *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.***

**(v27-40) Tumults are caused by rumors, half-truths, assumptions, prejudice, power, control, jealousy, and envy. Tumults tests our valor and tenacity; it builds our CHARACTER in CHRIST!!!**