



the upside down series
week twenty: indestructible Spirit

1. You develop an indestructible spirit when you _____ God no matter what.
2. You develop an indestructible spirit when your walk and your talk are _____.
3. You develop an indestructible spirit when you rest your hope in _____.
4. You develop an indestructible spirit when you understand the true nature of the _____.
5. You develop an indestructible spirit when your eyes are set on a _____.
6. You develop an indestructible spirit when you know that _____ are _____ on how you live.

The more we know Paul the more we see God's indestructible Spirit in him! Oh, to be like him through life's difficult circumstances that are sure to come. That is my prayer for you this week!



day one: falsely accused

Paul is about to appear before Ananias the high priest and one Tertullus, as well as the governor Felix. I can't wait to hear what Paul will have to say.

interesting fact

Read Acts 24:1-9.

exploring the text

Tertullus may have been Roman; more likely he was a Hellenistic Jew. His opening statement accuses Paul of sedition (a crime against Roman law), sectarianism (a violation of Jewish law), and sacrilege (a violation of divine law).

1. Who is Tertullus?
2. What impression were his opening remarks supposed to make?
3. What three charges were given against Paul?



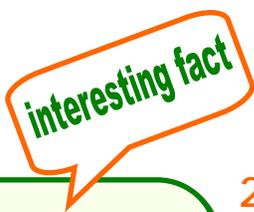
day two: a ready answer

Nobody likes to be falsely accused. But Paul saw in it an opportunity to tell everyone listening about Jesus. Let's see how he did it.

Today we will focus on vs. 10-21.

exploring the text

1. Describe Paul's tone and attitude when he answers.



The best way to equip yourself against discouragement is through the Word of God. You need to know the Word well in order to use it during trials. Don't expect to learn it all in a day. Instead, commit to learning God's word little by little, one day at a time.

2. How did Paul speak to each of the accusations?

3. What 4 affirmations does he make in vs. 24-26?

4. Read I Peter 3:15. What should every Christian be ready to do?



day three: always on time

Start your time with the Lord prayerfully.

Read Acts 23:22-27.

exploring the text

1. What did Felix decide about Paul?

quote

God is always on time. He is seldom early but he is never late.

James MacDonald.

2. Why did Felix not come to any decision about Paul?

3. Why do you think Felix was alarmed in vs. 25?

4. What do we know about Drusilla according to the passage? What can you glean about her spiritual condition?



day four: God means it for good

Paul has been in prison 2 years!! That's pretty crazy but Paul is not forgotten. He is about to appeal to Caesar with plans to go to Rome as God has promised him!

Read Acts 25:1-12.

exploring the text

1. In vs. 1-2 who was still trying to get rid of Paul, even after 2 years?
2. What did these leaders want to have done in vs. 3?
3. What showed that Festus was fair minded?
4. What did he require in vs. 5?



5. What was lacking with all the talk of the accusers?

6. What did Paul say on his own behalf?

verse

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

You have been kept alive today because of Paul's trip to Rome!

7. Does Paul even sound discouraged after all this time?

8. What appeal of Paul's saved him from going to Jerusalem in vs. 11?

9. Read Isaiah 14:27. Why couldn't the Jews get their way?



day five: promise keeper

Begin your time with Prayer thanking God for his divine providence, and for his knowing the end from the beginning in your life right now!

Read Acts 25:13-27.

exploring the text

1. In point of review, who is Festus? See Acts 24:27.
2. Who came to visit Festus in vs.13?
3. What Roman custom does Festus recall in vs.16?
4. What was Festus' opinion of the Jewish form of worship in vs.19?

interesting fact

Herod Agrippa II was the son of Herod Agrippa I and the great-grandson of Herod the great. Bernice was his sister, and rumors were rife that their relationship was incestuous. Paul's trial before Agrippa is the longest and most elaborate.

Herod the great had tried to destroy the infant Jesus back in Matthew 2:16-18. His son Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee, 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.

Talk about generational sins. But Paul was not intimidated!

