

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:22-24 (NIV)

Called And Compelled

Are you listening? Can you hear me calling you? I have called you to come near to me. I have called you to listen to me. I want you to hear my guidance. I want you to follow my direction. I have a purpose and plan for your life. I have a race for you to run. I have a task for you to complete. I want you to live your life with and for me. I am listening. I have heard your call. Here I am right now. I have stopped running around. I have withdrawn from the noise and busyness of life. I am attentively listening to everything you want to say to me. I will listen to your guidance. I will follow your direction. I do want to live my life with and for you. I want to know and do your will. I want to fulfill your purposes and complete your plans. I will run the race that you have set before me. I will complete the tasks you have given to me. **That is very good.**

There is something I want you to know. It may come as no surprise to you. What's that? **The road ahead will not be easy. You will face obstacles. You will need to overcome barriers.** You're right. That does not come as a big surprise to me. **Why is that?** The road to right here, where I am right now, has not been easy. In fact, I'm in the midst of difficulty right now. I'm weighed down. I'm burdened. I feel discouraged and depressed. **Yes, I know. I will lift you up. I will encourage you. I will strengthen you. I will be your shelter in this storm. I will be your place of refuge in this trouble. Hold on to me.** Yes Lord, I will. **I will hold on to you.** I know that to be true as well. **How so?** You have never let me go. You have never left me alone. You have always been with me to help me. **So am I now.**

There is something else I want you to know. What's that? **I will compel you. I will put a fire in you. You will want to serve me with all your heart and mind and soul and strength. You will have passion burning within you to know me and do my will. You will be on fire to follow and serve me. You will shine brightly for me.** I need that passion and fire in me right now. **Yes, you do.**

There is one more thing I also want you to know. What's that? **You will have clarity. There will be no doubt in you about where you should go and what you should do.** Why is that? **I will clearly mark out the race I want you to run as you love, follow and serve me. Are you ready?** Yes Lord, I am. **That is very good.**

Holy Spirit, I know I will face difficulty and obstacles as I go and do what the Lord has given me to do for Him. Help me to have the power and strength I will need to overcome both internal and external obstacles. Help me finish the race and complete the task. Amen

Holy Spirit *Compelled By The Spirit*

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

NIV Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Bound By The Spirit*

"And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus--the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

NLT Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Captive To The Spirit*

And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.

NRSV Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Bound By The Spirit*

And now, you see, I am going to Jerusalem, bound by the [Holy] Spirit and obligated and compelled by the [convictions of my own] spirit, not knowing what will befall me there-- Except that the Holy Spirit clearly and emphatically affirms to me in city after city that imprisonment and suffering await me. But none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from [which was entrusted to me by] the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news (Gospel) of God's grace (His unmerited favor, spiritual blessing, and mercy).

AMP Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Bound By The Spirit*

"And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

NASB Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Constrained By The Spirit*

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

ESV Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Bound In The Spirit*

And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

NKJV Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Compelled To Go*

"But there is another urgency before me now. I feel compelled to go to Jerusalem. I'm completely in the dark about what will happen when I get there. I do know that it won't be any picnic, for the Holy Spirit has let me know repeatedly and clearly that there are hard times and imprisonment ahead. But that matters little. What matters most to me is to finish what God started: the job the Master Jesus gave me of letting everyone I meet know all about this incredibly extravagant generosity of God.

MSG Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Drawn There Irresistibly By The Spirit*

"And now I am going to Jerusalem, drawn there irresistibly by the Holy Spirit, not knowing what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit has told me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus--the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love.

TLB Acts 20:22-24

Holy Spirit *Must Obey The Holy Spirit*

But now I must obey the Holy Spirit and go to Jerusalem. I don't know what will happen to me there. I know only that in every city the Holy Spirit tells me that troubles and even jail wait for me. I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me--to tell people the Good News about God's grace.

NCV Acts 20:22-24

Compelled By The Spirit

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Holy Spirit – Acts 20:22-24

In Context: Read Acts 20

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: (What is God speaking to your heart?)

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:22-24 (NIV)

Considering The Words: (What words speak to your heart?)

"And now, | compelled by | the Spirit, | I am going | to Jerusalem, | not knowing | what will happen | to me there. | I only know | that in every city | the Holy Spirit | warns me | that prison | and | hardships | are facing me. | However, | I consider | my life | worth nothing | to me, | if only | I may finish | the race | and | complete the task | the Lord Jesus | has given me | --the task | of testifying | to the gospel | of God's grace. Acts 20:22-24 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: (What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Holy Spirit, I know I will face difficulty and obstacles as I go and do what the Lord has given me to do for Him. Help me to have the power and strength I will need to overcome both internal and external obstacles. Help me finish the race and complete the task. Amen

What It Means: (What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you felt strongly directed by the Holy Spirit to go and do something for the Lord?

How has being compelled by the Holy Spirit to do something helped you overcome obstacles?

What kind of obstacles external and internal have you encountered when you were serving the Lord?

When have obstacles and opposition tested your resolve to go and do something for the Lord?

How has the Holy Spirit helped you keep your eyes on Christ and the assignment He has given to you?

What are you willing to go through to accomplish all that the Lord has given you to do for Him?

When and where is the Holy Spirit giving you opportunities to be a witness for Jesus Christ?

Living It Out: (What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Rely on the Holy Spirit to give you power and strength through whatever difficulties you face as you serve the Lord.

Seeing It Happen: (What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Holy Spirit will help you to overcome internal and external obstacles as you serve the Lord.

Get Ready To Share: (What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you keep your eyes on Christ, serving Him, even through difficulty.

Close With Prayer: Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow the Holy Spirit to call and compel you to do His work.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Holy Spirit, I will allow you to call and compel me to do your work.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Holy Spirit, what work will you call and compel me to do today?
