

"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)

Finish The Race

That is what I want to do. **What do you want to do?** I want to finish the race and complete the task you have given to me. I want to go wherever you lead me to do whatever you ask of me. I want to run well and finish strong. **That is a great desire that you have in you.** This desire does not originate with me. You have placed this desire within me. **Yes, that is true.**

What spurs you on? What is your motivation? I am compelled by your love for me and my love for you to go and do whatever you ask of me. I am not at your service out of some sense of obligation. I am not begrudgingly following and serving you. I am not hesitant, nor am I reluctant. Nothing gives me more pleasure and joy than to be used by you. It is my hope and prayer that you will powerfully work in and through me to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans. **I will hear and answer these prayers of yours. I have been and will continue to work in and through you. I will use your life to accomplish my purposes and fulfill my plans.**

What lies ahead? What can you expect? Those are difficult questions. How am I to know? **You can know by listening to my voice.** **What do you already know?** I know that you will lead me over treacherous terrain to do difficult ministry. Following and serving you will not always be easy. The greater the difficulty, the more, I will rely on you for your help. **That will be good. That is wise. I will be with you to help you. I will sustain and strengthen you. I will empower you. I will help you to know and do my will.**

What will the outcome be of your life? What do you most want? I want to know and love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. I want to live my life in an intimate relationship with you. I want others to be drawn to you through the testimony of my life. I want my thoughts and words and actions to draw others to you. One day, when I am in heaven with you, I would like to know that a multitude of people are there because they saw you shining brightly in and through my life. In other words, I will be happy and blessed if I have born fruit for your kingdom and brought glory to your name. Make that the outcome of my life. Answer that prayer for me. **That, I will do. You can count on me.** Thank you, Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, I will listen to you. I will follow you to where you lead me. I will do what you ask of me. Sustain and strengthen when the road ahead becomes treacherous and the ministry difficult. Empower to do what you ask of me. Fully use me in your service. Amen

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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

The Spirit Empowered Life *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 _____

The Spirit Empowered Life – 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 will listen to you. I will follow you to where you lead me. I will do what you ask of me. Sustain and strengthen when the road ahead becomes treacherous and the ministry difficult. Empower to do what you ask of me. Fully use me in your service. Amen

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

How are you relying on the Holy Spirit to guide you to where He wants you to be?

How are you trusting the Holy Spirit to empower you to do what He asks of you?

When have you found yourself out of position because you had not relied on the Holy Spirit to guide you?

Why will your work be powerless unless you rely on the Holy Spirit to work in and through you?

When has the Holy Spirit led you through treacherous territory to do difficult ministry?

How is your life focused on going where the Holy Spirit leads you to do what He asks of you?

What joy have you found in following the Holy Spirit to where He led you to do what He asked of you?

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

Rely on the Holy Spirit to guide you to where He wants you to be and empower you to do what He asks of you.

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

Have faith that the Holy Spirit will guide you to where He wants you to be and give you what He wants you to do.

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

Share with another person or your small group how you are relying on the Holy Spirit to guide your life and ministry.

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 follow the Holy Spirit to where He guides you to do what He asks of you.

Prayer To Carry

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

Holy Spirit, I will follow you to where you guide me to do what you ask of me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Holy Spirit, where will you guide me and what will you ask of me today?
