

Mission Possible

“From Faith to Faith”

Acts, Chapter 16

Psalms 33:12 NIV

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.”

We’ve got to stand our ground and continue to engage the culture and speak into the power centers of our world, our local economy, government, and our situation. What we *do* matters. What we *say* matters. What we *pray* matters. We need to do the next thing Jesus tells us to do. The whole Book of Acts is about cultural engagement. It was about taking the Good News of Jesus Christ into the culture in which they were living and speaking into the power centers of their world at the time.

Until we get our hearts right with God and the heart of our nation right with God then we’ll continue down the same track. The slim opening in the window of grace and mercy that we’re enjoying right now could be just a memory if we’re not careful. We can’t grow lax, lazy, or apathetic, thinking, *“We got Donald Trump elected. Everything’s great! Now we can just go back to business as usual and go back to life as we knew it before.”*

That’s not how this works. God has called us to be culture shapers, difference makers, and world changers. America doesn’t have a political problem, it has a *spiritual* problem, and in whatever sphere of influence God gives us, we have a responsibility for that sphere, because *that’s* what disciples do. We have a mandate from God to go and make *other* disciples for his glory and to advance his kingdom. At the end of the day, we’re supposed to align ourselves with God’s Word.

That we should be loud and bold with our witness is exactly what the founding fathers intended for us, and, more importantly, what *God* intended for us. The concept of separation of Church and state is nowhere to be found in the United States Constitution. It has since been perverted, but originally it was written about by Thomas Jefferson to keep *government* out of the Church - not the *Church* out of government!

Honoring our Foundations - The Church and our nation

CBN News: “One nation under God - Trump Honors Founding Moment - the Raising of the Cape Henry Cross” - On April 29th, 1607, the USA was born. On that day, the first permanent English settlers landed at present-day Cape Henry in Virginia Beach, Virginia, planting a cross and claiming the New World for Christ, King, and country. Today, a majestic granite cross stands on those same hallowed shores as a testament to the steadfast Christian belief of the Jamestown settlers that God's grace abides, His mercy is abundant, and His glory is everlasting.

“Our Nation honors the heroic souls whose faithful devotion and uncommon courage more than four hundred years ago foreshadowed the birth of the greatest Republic in the history of the world - and it is in their memory that we pledge to forge a future that always celebrates our history, honors our heritage, and glorifies our God Almighty. More than four centuries after the First Landing, we prayerfully renew our covenant to always be one Nation under God and to always seek His blessing and protection.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2025, as a day in celebration of the 418th anniversary of the First Landing and the Raising of the Cross at Cape Henry, Virginia, by the Jamestown settlers.”

The Dedication Prayer of 1607 at Cape Henry, VA

From the 1607 covenant prayer made by Pastor Robert Hunt at Cape Henry, Virginia - this prayer was part of a formal dedication by the first English settlers, declaring their intent to evangelize the land and future generations, and is considered a foundational moment in early American religious history:

"We do hereby Dedicate this Land, and ourselves, to reach the People within these shores with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to raise up Godly generations after us, and with these generations take the Kingdom of God to all the earth. May this Covenant of Dedication remain to all generations, as long as this earth remains, and may this Land, along with England, be Evangelist to the World."

Our soil was dedicated to the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for one purpose and one cause.

Preserving Our Christian Heritage - Government and the Church

RSBN reported that President Trump signed an executive order forming a Religious Liberty Commission during a White House National Day of Prayer event on May 1st.

Also, Texas Tribune's Katharine Wilson reported: *"Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to lead Trump's commission on religious liberty - Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick of Texas has been tapped to chair President Donald Trump's new commission on religious liberty, which was announced during the National Day of Prayer celebration at the White House on Thursday. "You are restoring the hopes and the prayers of millions upon millions of believers of all faiths," said Patrick, referencing Trump, during a speech at the event. The commission, according to Trump's executive order, will make a report about threats to religious liberty and strategies to increase awareness of religious pluralism in the country."*

What can we do?

1 Tim 2:1-2 NLT

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity."

We must remember to pray for wisdom, discernment, and godly strategies to bring our nation back to God's intended foundations of faith, family, and freedom. This is not the time for us to put our feet up and kick back, but to stay informed, educated, and in the game. We need to move forward and pray for our President, the U.S. Congress, and the Texas State House and Senate elected officials.

Acts 15:36,38,39 NLT - Paul and Barnabas Separate

"After some time Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing...' But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus."

It took bold and audacious faith for Paul and his companions to continue to go on these missionary journeys, but God has his way of getting things done.

Mission Possible: From faith to faith - Acts 16 - the second missionary journey

Acts 16:1-5 NKJV - Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

Acts 16:6-10 NKJV - The Macedonian Call

“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding [together] that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

When God calls, we have a responsibility to say “Yes” and to follow the call. If we’ll give our Yes to Jesus before the question comes, he’ll put us in amazing places without us having to elbow our way in, trying to make room for ourselves or promote ourselves, but we’re simply saying, “Yes, Lord!” when we wake up in the mornings and follow his call.

Psalms 37:23 AMP

“The steps of a [good and righteous] man are directed and established by the Lord, and He delights in his way [and blesses his path].”

We have a choice of the people we put around our life, and we also have an obligation to help raise the next generation in the spirit of faith. Paul obeyed immediately and trusted God to lead him. Do we trust him - even when we may have missed it in the past? Do we just quit trying altogether? God is training us for reigning in this world, and this is boot camp, which means we’re going to have some “misses”. Or, maybe we won’t be able to scale the wall yet - but next time we’ll get higher - letting it work for us instead of against us.

God's not hiding things *from* us - he's hiding things *for* us. He's hiding a greater anointing for us that we've not yet tapped into, or maybe a gift of healing that we haven't been willing to reach out and give a try. Sometimes we swing and miss - we don't hit every pitch that's thrown at us or hit it straight every time - but should we *quit*? No - we come back and do it better the *next time*. That's what "growing in the faith" is about. Who wants their faith expanded? Who wants their faith *increased*? Who wants to walk into the workplace and so carry the grace of God in our life that things change just because we walked in the room!

We don't need to dress weird or have purple hair to stand out - we just need the anointing and the grace of God. Paul was so strong in his faith that he was willing to be beaten, stoned, and to lay down his life if that's what it meant to do what God told him. *Are we that called? Are we that confident? Are we that sure?* We get so caught up in what other people think about us that it completely steps us back from the very thing God is calling us *into*. What are we *afraid* of?

Romans 1:16,17 NKJV - The Just Live by Faith

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV - We Please God by Faith

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

God works with us if we'll only try!

Hebrews 11:1,3 NKJV - What Faith Is

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence [proof] of things not seen. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Mark 11:20-22 NKJV - By Faith We Move Mountains

"Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, 'Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.' So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in [the faith of] God.'"

God is *challenging* us. There are mountains in our lives that need to be *moved*. The stuff that's in front of us that looks so daunting - so *big* - is a "mountain" that needs to be moved. How do we move it? - not by physical *exertion*, but by *faith* - for a habit, besetting sin, a daughter that's spun out, a grandchild that needs Jesus, a job situation, or we're praying that the Gospel of Jesus Christ *would* completely consume our world. How do we get *our* will in line with God's? First find out what God cares about through his Word. We align our thoughts with the Bible. His *Word* is his *will*.

Mark 11:23 NKJV

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.'"

That's a promise that needs to be stood upon. Every one of us has a mountain in our life that needs to be moved. We do that by *faith* - by speaking to our mountain even if we feel weak and powerless. But God *delights* in using the weak and powerless to show *himself* strong. *What are our mountains? What's in front of us that needs to move? What have we tried to pray about but nothing's happened - there's been no movement?* Maybe it's because we've been doubting in our mind - we don't believe that what we say is going to happen - we're wondering if there has to be a caveat or a "what-if"?

Mark 11:24 NKJV

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Are we ready to raise our belief quotient - to raise our faith a little bit? *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Romans 10:17 NKJV) - *by the Word of God - the Gospel - the Message of Christ.*

The 7 Mountain Mandate - Dr Lance Walnau

The 7 Mountain Strategy identifies seven key spheres of influence in culture we must "move" or impact, in order to transform our nation and shape the culture.

The 7 Mountains are:

- 1] Church - needs to be set on fire again
- 2] Family - if the enemy can take apart our families, he'll take apart the very fabric of our culture
- 3] Education - godly teachers and administrators are on the front lines making a difference in a difficult place and are fighting a hard battle. We need to be praying for them.
- 4] Government - We're just getting started and it's beginning to happen, but some are upset that corruption is being uncovered.
- 5] Media - a mountain that needs to be *moved* and *re-moved*
- 6] Arts & Entertainment
- 7] Business and the economy

Our own personal mountain - The Book of James says we *have* not because we ask not.

Today's the time to take a shot!

Prayer

Father, we ask for a supernatural release of faith to come into us right now. Lord, we want that, and we receive it - we receive more faith - the gift of faith. But we also want to grow and cultivate our faith as we study Your Word, which says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Just like Paul made a turn towards You after You gave him a dream, we make a turn of faith towards You by saying "Yes, Lord, now what's the question? Jesus, we give You our hearts and our lives. We love You and honor You. Thank You for Your Word. Continue to teach us. We listen and we receive. In Jesus' name. Amen