

Acts: Encountering the Holy Spirit

Dismantling Your Distress



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THE HOLY SPIRIT

If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:15-1 (NIV)

- ALWAYS REINFORCES THE WORD OF GOD
- ACTS AS A GUIDE
- EQUIPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS
- CORRECTS US FOR A GREATER PURPOSE

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

Acts 17:16-23 (NIV)

Dismantling Your Distress



DISMANTLING YOUR DISTRESS

- MINDSET
 - Our mindsets are anchored in the Word of God, guided by His Spirit and strengthened through the reasoning with the body of Christ.
 - We grow in our understanding of the mindsets of others so that we can reach them.

So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 17:17 (NIV)

- DESIRES
 - Dismantle our desire to be liked in order to point others to the one we love
 - Dismantle the desires within us so that we can free others
- HOPE

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, “We are his offspring.”

Acts 17:24-28 (NIV)