

# “A Life That Cannot Be Stopped”

Acts 5:26–42

## Introduction

Those of us who have been around for a while understand – many things in life come and go ... We have seen movements rise and fall ... Many leaders have their moments in time – and then history forgets their names ... But there is one reality that neither rulers nor history have ever been able to silence – a life birthed by God ... This life endures – and it cannot be stopped.

That’s the thread we’ve been following in this series – From the Outpouring to the Overturning ... We’re not walking through Acts – just to rehearse history ... We’re tracing what Pentecost looks like – when it manifests in daily life ... Pentecost was never about a doctrine or tradition ... It was the unveiling of a new kind of humanity – the Spirit of God filling men and women – awakening them to their true nature in Christ – and sending them out to live in His power.

Let’s remember where we’ve been ... In Acts 2, prayer and community became the natural rhythm of Spirit-filled people ... In Acts 3, a man crippled from birth leapt to his feet – an undeniable testimony that new life had broken in ... In Acts 4, boldness rose up to declare Christ even when the authorities said, “Be silent.” ... And in Acts 5, ministering angels broke the apostles out of prison.

Every step shows us the same truth - - Pentecost doesn’t stay hidden in an upper room ... It spills out into the public square – into families – into confrontation – into miracles – into perseverance ... And today we arrive at another courtroom scene ... The rulers are furious ... The apostles are on trial again ... But then, through the voice of Gamaliel, God reminds them – and us – of this unshakable reality - - Whatever is of God – cannot be overthrow.

And here's what that means for us - - this isn't just about what God did back then ... This is about the life of Christ awakened in us now ... Once that life begins to manifest, no power, no opposition, no trial can put it back in the grave.

## Transition

We've set the stage ... Pentecost has revealed a new kind of life – a life that cannot be stopped ... But here's the tension - - whenever this new creation manifests – it always draws resistance ... The rulers couldn't ignore it ... The crowds couldn't deny it ... And the question that fills this moment is the same question the world still asks today: *“What do we do with people who can't be silenced?”* ... That's where we step into our text.

## Those who Live a Spirit-Filled Life Will Always Draw Resistance

When we step into this moment in Acts 5 – the apostles have just been freed from prison by an angel ... But it doesn't take long before they're dragged right back into the courtroom ... Verses 26–28 says that the captain and the officers brought them without violence – because they feared the people ... And then the high priest speaks up - - *“Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? ... And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!”*

Think about that ... The very thing the rulers wanted to stop – is the very thing they couldn't escape ... They tried to silence the message of Jesus – but the city was already saturated with it ... The apostles hadn't stayed quiet ... They hadn't retreated into hiding ... They kept speaking – kept teaching – kept living in the power of Pentecost – and the evidence was so undeniable – that even their enemies had to admit - - *“You have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.”* ... Here's the truth - - Whenever the Spirit-filled life is manifesting – resistance will come ... Opposition is not proof that you've failed – it's proof that you've made an impact ... If your life in Christ never stirs up anything – if no one ever notices – if no one ever pushes back – then maybe the flame isn't burning as brightly as it could ... But when the life of the Spirit flows

through you – people will notice ... Some will be drawn ... Others will resist ... But you will not be ignored ... Don't miss this mystical truth ... When the light of Christ shines through a kainos being – awakened at Pentecost – darkness feels exposed and agitated ... And whenever the darkness is exposed – the persons first instinct is to push back ... But that pushback is not a sign of defeat – nor you are somehow at fault ... It's confirmation that the life of Christ is being manifested through your life ... The light and resonance of Charlie is still flowing out – that is why we have had a week filled with foolish and insensitive comments about his life.

So don't be surprised when this type of behavior is projected towards you – as you manifest the new creation lifestyle ... Darkness can't abide with light ... And the only response darkness has is to push back through threats and even violence ... Don't shrink back when people misunderstand you – criticize you – or even oppose you ... Rejoice – because it means Pentecost is manifesting through you ... A kainos being – who resonates with the light and frequency of the Spirit – will always draw resistance – but that resistance is the very evidence that the life within you cannot be stopped.

Resistance will always rise when the Spirit-filled life is on display – but here's the good news: resistance does not have the final word ... Man can threaten, criticize, and even attack, but in the middle of all that noise – God raises up a reminder: His purpose for your life can never be overturned ... That's where Gamaliel steps into the story.

### God's Purpose Cannot Be Circumvented

The council was furious ... Verse 33 says - - *“When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.”* ... The apostles weren't just in danger of imprisonment – they were staring down the threat of execution ... But then something unexpected happened ... In the middle of the rage – God spoke through a voice of reason ... A Pharisee named Gamaliel – a teacher of the law – respected by all – stood up and ordered that the apostles be put outside for a little while.

And what does he say? ... He reminds the council of movements that had come before – men who had gathered followers for a season – but when they died – their followers scattered and the movement came to nothing ... And then Gamaliel delivers a profound prophesy that still thunders today: *“But if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it — lest you even be found to fight against God.”*

Did you catch the weight of that? ... Gamaliel was no friend of the apostles ... He wasn't defending them out of loyalty or shared faith ... Yet his words revealed a profound truth that has held true throughout every generation ... The plans of man will fade away – but the purpose of a kainos being cannot be stopped ... Catch this principle ... We do not have to strive – we don't have to work harder at religious disciplines – to see the purposes of God come to pass ... We don't use methodology nor religious ideology to manipulate the outcomes ... If the purpose was truly birthed from the heart of God ... If it contains within itself – the life of God ... Then nothing in this realm can stop that movement.

Now, don't miss this mystical truth ... Pentecost didn't just launch a new movement ... It was the unveiling and awakening of a new creation being ... The kainos being has now stepped onto the stage of history ... And once that life was awakened within those believers – no council – no prison – no sword – no threats – could put that new creation back into the grave ... Gamaliel probably didn't fully understand it – but he was being used of God to bear witness – to a new creation reality ... A life – awakened by the indwelling Spirit – can never have his life's mission circumvented.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

If any circumstance of this natural realm – can stop you from carrying out – the indwelling purpose that God put within you at your birth – then you have never experienced Pentecost ... I'm referring to a spiritual encounter that radically changed a Christ-denier into a bold witness for Christ who was consistently put into prison and was eventually martyred for his faith – the apostle Peter ... Do you know why so many marvel at the life of Charlie Kirk? ... Because so few have experienced Pentecost like he did ... Charlie Kirk was our modern-day example of a kainos being.

This truth should anchor us ... It means we don't live in fear of what men can do ... We don't have to bow to the threats of culture, religion, or politics ... The life of Christ in us is unstoppable ... And to resist that life is to fight against God Himself ... Even if it is YOU doing the resisting.

If Gamaliel reminds us that God's purpose in a person's life cannot be circumvented – then what we see next is how God's people responded when they knew that truth – deep within the core of their being ... Instead of shrinking back in fear, they step forward in joy – even when it costs them.

### God's People Rejoice and Persevered in Purpose

After Gamaliel's counsel, the rulers decide not to execute the apostles – but they don't let them go quietly either ... Verse 40 says - - *“And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.”*

Did you catch that? ... They had just been miraculously delivered from prison by an angel ... They followed the edict of the angel to go and preach ... Their life was spared by Gamaliel's speech to the council ... But now they are whipped and permanently scared for teaching biblical truth ... If there was ever a time to feel confused and discouraged – this was it ... But what did they do? ... Verse 41 says - - *“So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.”* ... Rejoicing – not complaining – not retreating – not asking God - “why” ... They rejoiced that they had been marked by the same people that had marked their Lord.

But it doesn't stop there ... Verse 42 says - - *“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”* ... The apostles continued their

daily routine – in private – in public – in the Temple and in the homes ... They didn't stop ... They didn't slow down ... The persecution didn't shut them up – it turned up the volume.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

When you come to the spiritual revelation that – God's purpose that has been engrained within you – can't be stopped by any earthly or demonic force – you will persevere through every storm – and rejoice through every fiery furnace ... When you awaken to the reality that this kainos life within you is unstoppable – you won't let adversity nor suffering break you – you will allow it to – refine and strengthen you

### **Mystical Truth**

Nehemiah 8:10 says - - ***“Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”*** ... This isn't speaking about natural happiness or human optimism ... This is the Spirit witnessing in our spirit that we are one with Christ ... It is literally His vibrational frequency – vibrating within our spirit – strengthening and encouraging us ... Even though our bodied may bear the scars of battle – our spirit burns brighter and vibrates louder.

So how should we view these thoughts? ... **First** - - It means we don't measure our faith walk by how we feel – or how smoothly life is going ... We measure it by how faithfully we keep shining and resonating – especially when all hell is breaking loose around us ... **Second** - - It is the joy of the spirit that strengthens us against the darkness ... Then that joy will manifest in perseverance which is our testimony for the world to see.

The apostles revealed to us that opposition doesn't silence us – it actually refines us ... If that was true for them – it is true for us today ... So how do we live out this same lifestyle that they did?

### **Takeaway**

So, let's tie this all together ... We've seen three clear revelational truths from this text:

**Living a Spirit-filled life will always draw resistance** ... So – don't be surprised when you face opposition ... It's a sign that Pentecost is manifesting through you.

**Your God given purpose cannot be circumvented** ... What is born of God cannot be overthrown by any earthly nor demonic powers ... The kainos life – awakened by the Pentecostal experience carries the unstoppable power of Christ.

**As a kainos being – we rejoice and persevere – in carrying out His purpose for our life** ... When we are abused – opposed – beaten or scarred – we shine brighter because we know nothing can silence the life of Christ within us ... Let me remind you that Jesus said – If they persecuted me – they will also persecute you ... He also said – Be of good cheer as I have overcome the world ... If Jesus could endure the cross – for the joy that was set before Him ... We can endure – and persevere through anything that life throws our way.

Now catch this – Pentecost was never meant to be locked in the past ... It is a present reality ... The Spirit did not come to give us another religious event to commemorate once a year ... He came to awaken us to the life of Christ within us ... And that awakened life cannot be stopped ... That life cannot be silenced ... That life cannot be overthrown.

So, the call for us today is simple but weighty - - Live as if – this new creation life – is truly in you – because it is ... Don't shrink back when resistance comes ... Don't lose heart when the world pushes back ... Don't let oppression steal your joy ... Instead, let the Spirit-filled life – that resides in you – manifest daily ... In your home – in your workplace – in your conversations – in your worship ... Because the same life that filled Jerusalem in Acts 5 is the same life filling us now ... So as we close today – let's not just agree with this truth – in our minds ... But let's open our hearts – so the Spirit can awaken us deeply to this reality.

**Closing Prayer**

Father, we thank You that what You birthed at Pentecost was not a passing moment – but the unveiling of a new creation life that cannot be stopped ... We confess that too often we have measured life by resistance – by struggle – by what people say or do against us ... But today we realign ourselves to the greater truth – Your purpose within each of us – cannot be circumvented ... Holy Spirit, seal this reality in our hearts ... When resistance rises – remind us it is evidence that the light is shining ... When fear whispers – anchor us in the confidence that Your purpose stands forever ... And when suffering comes – fill us with the joy that marked the apostles – a joy that cannot be silenced ... Lord Jesus, we rejoice that we are counted worthy to bear the marks of Your name ... Let Pentecost not just be a story we read, but a life we live ... Thank you for the privilege of living in oneness with You ... In Your mighty name of Jesus – Amen.