***Acts 28:31***

***(Paul) preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching, concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.***

**What Does it Say?**

Preaching the kingdom of God, teaching the Lord Jesus Christ with ALL openness, ***UNHINDERED***

**What Does it Mean?**

The Bible study this winter is on the book of Acts and I could find no great word to sum up the entire book of what God was doing, than the very last word of the book of Acts, unhindered. The word in the Greek is ***akōlytōs:*** which means, without hindrance, without restrain, without obstruction, freely. What was done without restraint? The teaching of who Jesus is. Jesus is the Messiah, the Righteous One of Israel, the One who is God with skin on who came to repair the relationship that man and woman has to God.

 The Holy Spirit, who is God, the third member of the Godhead, is alive and active in the book of Acts and has left the building. The Jewish people would come expectant to the temple in Jerusalem where the *shekinah glory* of God rested. The very presence of God was in the holy of holies in the temple and God’s chosen people of Israel would go to the temple to worship in the presence of God. In Acts chapter 2, the presence of God was given in the in dwelling of the Holy Spirit. The very presence of God would in times past rest upon certain prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Samuel, David, and even King Saul for awhile, but now, that presence of God in the Holy Spirit would take up residence within those who believed Jesus is Messiah.

 The Holy Spirit changed everything. God’s presence alive and active in a person’s life gives boldness where there was timidity, gives courage where there was fear, gives power and freedom where there was weakness and bondage. This is what the Holy Spirit does! Jesus said in

 ***Luke 4:18, “The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight for the blind, to set free those who are oppressed.***

This was a direct quote from the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 61:1, this is what Messiah would do! This is how you will know that God has come Himself with skin on! Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, BUT because He left, ascended to heaven to the right had of God, He was able to send the Counselor, the Holy Spirit to be ***poured out*** (Joel 2:28) upon mankind and Jesus said,

 ***“Truly truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, also he will do. And he will do greater than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12***

The Holy Spirit is vital to the congregation of believers. When the Holy Spirit moves, **nothing can stop Him,** this is what we witness in the book of Acts through the testimony of the apostles. There is nothing that can restrain or hinder the Holy Spirit from doing what He will do. What if everyone who claims to believe in Jesus, allowed the Holy Spirit ***unrestrained*** access to their lives. The Holy Spirit, ***not your idea of the Holy Spiri***t, because a lot of harm has been done in the name of the Holy Spirit. What I am talking about, is the legitimate Holy Spirit of the Living God working in an unrestrained manner in my life because I am Clemson Tiger, #ALLIN. What would we see? What would we be witnesses of?

 The Holy Spirit testifies to the Word of God, nothing He leads you to do will be contrary to the Word of God that is written. The Holy Spirit testifies to who Jesus is. The Holy Spirit does not testify to my talents or abilities or platform, He testifies to Jesus. When people, see you, hear you and watch you, they will see a reflection of Jesus. What if every single person in the body of Jesus Messiah reflected Him? We would see the *unhindered, unrestrained power of the Gospel lived out.*

 It’s time for a Great Awakening in each of our personal lives of the power of the living God. We are going to look at the lives of the apostles of Jesus who lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, openly, proclaiming the Kingdom of God without hindrance, without restraint in all boldness and courage.

 It’s time we stop living defeated lives defined by our disappointment in “church” the noun, and begin living and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit…. the verb. Let’s join community groups as we together strive to live the book of Acts in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**What Does it Mean to Me?**

When was the last time you can confidently say that you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? Can you even think of a time? Have you ever seen or heard of God doing incredible things today, in our generation? Please share! Let’s join together and give God the glory for what He has done!

**LIVE IT OUT**

 Lord, I don’t understand everything, or even the surface of who the Holy Spirit is, I pray You teach me who You are through Your Word as I get into it. I pray You open my eyes to see where You are working today, here and now. Help me to surrender my life and give You unrestrained access to me and what You want to do. Help me to see where and how to follow You.

Join me in praying and fasting this winter season as we live out the book of Acts, together.