

What Revival Looks Like  
How Revival Acts  
Acts 23:1-11

**FIRED UP**





Acts 23:1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

2 And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

3 Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, *thou* whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

4 And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest?

5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.



7 And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.

8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

9 And there arose a great cry: and the scribes *that were* of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.

10 And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring *him* into the castle.

11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.



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IV. THE OPERATIVES: THE FORWARDING EMPHASIS – STEPHEN,

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2. Paul and His Captors, 22:24-30

a. The Captain’s Dilemma, 22:24-28

b. The Captain’s Dread, 22:29

c. The Captain’s Decision, 22:30



Paul was warned not to go to Jerusalem, found himself in the middle of a riot, and at this point, he faced a trial.

## C. Rescued from the Trial, 23:1-11

### 1. Paul's Fiery Spirit, 23:1-5

#### a. The High Priest's Bad Temper, 23:1-3

##### (1) He was Angered by Paul, 23:1-2

Acts 23:1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

2 And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.



Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and *toward* men.

Rom 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, **my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,**

2 Cor. 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, **the testimony of our conscience**, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

1 Tim. 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and **of a good conscience**, and *of* faith unfeigned:

2 Tim. 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers **with pure conscience**, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;



Jn. 18:20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

21 Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.

22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

23 Jesus answered him, **If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?**



Josephus painted Ananias as a despicable person. He seized, for his own use, tithes that should have gone to the ordinary priests, and he gave large bribes to Romans and Jews. The emperor at one point summoned him to Rome, on charges of being involved in a bloody battle between Jews and Samaritans, but he escaped punishment. He was very wealthy, and resorted to violence and even assassination to accomplish his ends. He was also very pro-Roman, and the Jews finally assassinated him in their uprising against Rome in A.D. 66, nine years after Paul stood before him.

Josephus, *The Wars . . .*, 2:12:6; 2:17:6, 9; *Antiquities of . . .*, 20:5:2; 20:6:2; 20:9:2, 4. Cf. Wiersbe, 1:494.

(2) He was Answered by Paul, 23:3

Acts 23:3 Then said Paul unto him, **God shall smite thee, *thou whited wall***: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten **contrary to the law?**



Mt. 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's bones*, and of all uncleanness.

b. The High Priest's Bad Testimony, 23:4-5

Acts 23:4 And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest?

5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

2. Paul's Fleshly Strategy, 23:6-10a



## a. The Rift, 23:6

Acts 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Acts 26:4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; 5 Which knew me from the beginning, **if they would testify**, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

6 **And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:**

7 Unto which *promise* our twelve tribes, instantly serving *God* day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.



8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?...

22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, **saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:**

23 That **Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead,** and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

### b. The Reaction, 23:7-8

#### (1) The Two Parties, 23:7

Acts 23:7 And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.



## (2) The Two Positions, 23:8

Acts 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess **both**.

Heb. 1:13 But to which of **the angels** said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?  
14 **Are they not all ministering spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; **for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**



### c. The Riot, 23:9-10a

Acts 23:9 “And there arose a great cry: and the scribes *that were* of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.

10 And when there arose a great dissension...”

### 3. Paul's Future Service, 23:10b-11

a. Saved by the Soldiers, 23:10b “...the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring *him* into the castle.”



## b. Strengthened by the Savior, 23:11

Acts 23:11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Phil. 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.**

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.



## Conclusion

1 Sam. 30:6 And **David was greatly distressed**; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**



2 Cor. 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.**