



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High.

**Title:** Christians Who Upset  
the World, Part 1

**Lesson:** 88

**Text:** Acts 17:1-6

**Date:** Dec 1, 2024

Acts 17:6 ... “These men who have upset the world have come here also;

## Four virtues that make high-impact Christians:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ from conviction

Acts 17:1–10 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

Luke stayed behind - The pronoun “**we**” is replaced by “**they**”

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your **God is with you wherever you go.**”

## 2. A \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of God’s Word

2 And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,  
3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”

### “three Sabbaths”

It seems plausible they stayed more that three weeks.

1. According to Phil. 4:15-16 the Philippian church sent money to Paul at least twice during this visit.
2. According to 1 Thess 2:1-7 Paul supported himself by manual labor. That might suggest a longer stay.
3. It was during his stay in Thessalonica where Paul worked night and day that Paul wrote 1 & 2 Thess.

**Paul's method of evangelism is marked off by three verbs:**

**Verb # 1 - "reasoned" [dialegomai] -**

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a **defense (apologetic)** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Reasoning was Paul's pattern of witnessing.

- In Athens (17:17)
- In Corinth (18:4)
- In Ephesus (18:19; 19:8, 9)
- In Troas (20:7, 9)
- In Caesarea (24:25)

**"from the Scriptures"**

Matthew 16:19 (ANT) — 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be **what is already bound in heaven**; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be **what is already loosed in heaven**.

**Verb # 2 - “explaining” [dianoigō] -**

Mk 7:34 - Jesus opens the ears of a deaf man

Lk 24:31 - Jesus opened the eyes of two men

Acts 7:56 - Stephen saw heaven open up

Acts 16:14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was **listening**; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to **the things spoken by Paul**.

**Verb # 3 - “giving evidence” [paratithemai] -**

4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

**“persuaded”**

**3. A \_\_\_\_\_ to suffer**

5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have upset the world have come here also;

**“upset the world” (upset) [anastatoō] -**

Acts 24:5 “For we have found this man a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

1 Peter 2:6–8 For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.” 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders **rejected**, This became the very corner stone,” 8 and, “A stone of **stumbling** and a rock of **offense**”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

## **Implication**

**High impact believers will see blessing but they will also \_\_\_\_\_ the status quo.**

## Discussion Guide

1. Where does emotion play into the salvation experience?
2. Was the reputation of “upsetting the world” for Paul and Silas good or bad? Do we share that reputation today? Why or why not?
3. Why is it necessary in most cases to begin our evangelism approach with dialogue instead of preaching the gospel?

What are some questions we might have to answer?  
What are some objections we might have to answer?

4. Could you give an adequate answer to the following objections?
  - “Bible was written by man.”
  - “The Bible has contradictions.”
  - “I was in a church and they started speaking in tongues and passing out.”
  - “If God is real, then why did he allow my spouse to die?”
  - “No two denominations believe the same. Who is right?”

**ANSWERS:** Courage, thorough, willingness, upset