

**Scripture:** Acts 4:23-35 & 13:6-12

**Singing:** 402:1, 6 – 236:1-4 – 265:1, 3 – 446:2, 3

Refresh: *The Spirit seeks your best in pricking your heart* (Acts 2:37)

A. Our response brings *more or less of Him*: 1 Sam. 2:30 John 7:37-39

B. Our preparation for His ‘workshop’ is vital: Acts 4:29-32

How Satan’s seeks to keep you from the faith!
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**I. Satan has put up the ‘gates of hell’ to hold you captive**

A. Our human journey started as a ‘beautiful city in a glorious land’

B. Unless Christ has already reclaimed you, you are willing captive

C. While you cannot *change this condition*, you are able to *worsen it!*

1. His devices are numerous:

a. ambition (1 John 2:13-17)

b. distraction (Acts 17:21; Jer. 2:5)

c. spiritual poisoning (Acts 13:6-8)

**II. Satan will strengthen the gates of hell to keep you from surrendering**

A. As Sergius Paulus, you face two preachers

1. Elymas withstood the preaching of the Word: vs. 8

2. This happens each time you sit under the preaching: Acts 2:40-41

B. Satan’s strategy: enlist you as his ally in resisting the Holy Spirit’s Word

C. God’s counter offensive: *Preach the Word!*

**Reflect:** Three of Satan’s devices examined:

A. “There is enough time to get serious: first enjoy life!”

B. “You have sinned too long, too much to be forgiven by God.”

C. “Just to believe in order to be saved from judgment is far too simple.”



1. To whom did Paul preach in the story?
2. While he was preaching, what happened?
3. What might the devil do to keep you from listening well to the Word?
4. Explain what it is not always the devil's fault when we don't listen to the message of God.
5. You also need to prepare yourself for hearing the sermon. What are you to do to be ready to hear God's Word?
6. Satan makes you believe his lies. In this way he keeps you from believing God's truth. Can you write down one or two lies Satan tries to make us believe?
7. How are you to fight Satan's lies?
8. Write down a few things you should pray for this week.