The Book of Acts // Episode 8

Title: Devoted, not Disappointed

Acts 4:23-31 NLT

(Fresh Start Bible, Pg 952)

Prayer is always the right first response of those with uncommon devotion.

Affirm the perspective of heaven - God is sovereign and reigning over man.

James 1:2-8 (NLT)

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do."

Ask for strength to persevere and steward your assignment.

PRACTICING THE WAY
As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Fresh Start Pathway with a friend.

Pray through "The Lord's Prayer" five times this week.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)
- Read Acts 4. What do you notice within this passage?
- When you hear the word "persecution," what image or example comes to mind?
- What are some disappointments we may face in life?
- Read James 1:2-8. What do you notice in this passage?
- Have you ever felt disappointed by God? What did you do to regain or replenish your trust in God?
- How can someone strengthen their faith, moving in loyalty and perseverance?