**SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

During a whole period of traveling on mission we were moving in the study of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. We were receiving instruction in Europe, in the Urals, in Israel, in the Far East, in Asia, in other places of our ministry where God's messengers work.  
The Lord directs us so that the Acts of the Apostles work wherever we release this teaching.  
Therefore, receive this message, carefully listening to what the Holy Spirit will speak today in place of your dwelling and ministry! Hallelujah!  
And this is your time.  
It is right now, which means TODAY ... when you hear His voice.

We apologize that not all chapters are presented: the text is given in the recitative of sermons spoken in different places and nations.  
   
**In the beginning God**...

Often we look for strategies or special techniques so that the Gospel may “work” in our churches and lives. But, first of all, we need to return to the source, to the Apostolic dimension. In the beginning God is, it is neither us nor our activities.  
God creates by the Word and by the Spirit. He made the heavens by the Word and called it "the firmament", separating the water from the water. First of all, the church needs a spiritual foundation. First the Word is given in the Spirit, and then the earth appears. Therefore, when such a faith comes to us that the heavenly becomes our foundation, then we will have the ministry of power. We must release the supernatural.  
We must be filled with revelation, power, and the Word of faith, so that people could drink from us and become strong. We can pour faith into people by preaching for just a few minutes, and within this time people will be transferred into another dimension. This is the ministry of the Spirit. A disciple cannot be higher than his teacher. You can take people only to the place where you yourself have reached. If the church is weak, then it is a reflection of the pastor's face. He comes to the meeting and looks into the mirror at his reflection. Therefore, the task of the preacher is to have time to meet with God, to crush himself on the Stone, in order to give to people.  
We will be reading the Book of Acts and go through a multi-level empowerment - not just receive information from the Scriptures, but receive the tools: how to take revelation from the Scriptures and apply the Word revealed.  
  
**The Book of Acts.**

**Chapter 4**

**Apostolic church**

I recommend that you study the Book of Acts very carefully. Put your church and ministry as a substitute in every chapter of this book. Not all our pastors understands this. The strategy of the church, which invites people into certain place, is aimed at waiting. This is not an Apostolic strategy. With this approach you have to constantly attract people by programs and “make tricks” so that they would be happy to return again. This is in no way an Apostolic Church.  
I will share a revelation with you. Once I had a dream. I was riding a lion and held him by the mane. It was a young lion, but not teenaged and not a youth. When we climbed up a mountain, the lion lay down on his side playing, and I slipped a shoe to him, and he began to bite it slightly, because he was my lion. It was the real world. A real lion must be wild. What touched me, - he had very unpleasant hair. I even thought in my dream why they didn’t brush him. But brushed lions are found only in circus. A real lion must be wild. He had his tousle sticking out to all sides. I realized: this lion is my spirit.

See how interesting: God can speak to man in this way. Have you noticed what language God speaks to you? What did He mean by that? This is not only encouragement, it is something more. I know that my spirit is exactly like this: a young lion. Apostles cannot please people, they are fearless. We don't have to be liked by everyone. An Apostle is not the one who shouts the loudest.  
  
The fearless spirit is the spirit that continues to go through all the circumstances. He may be dressed either in simple or bright clothes, but his spirit must always be like that of a lion. Therefore, an Apostle is a lion. A prophet is an eagle. A bishop or a pastor is an ox, he drags things, because it is said so: «Much increase comes by the strength of an ox.» But Apostles – this is the ministry of the lion, the royal spirit that governs. All believers can understand and manifest the spirit of the lion.

The Apostolic church was empowered with strength. The power in ministry is manifested not only through the healing of the sick, not only through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The authority of the Apostolic church was manifested in the resurrection of the dead. How much is preached about resurrection today? This is an indicator of how few Apostolic movements are in the contemporary church.

The Apostolic Church preaches about resurrection! It speaks about eternal life. The church must know about the heavenly things. The first Christians had knowledge about the coming of Christ, about the rapture of the Church, about the antichrist, they had revelation of spiritual things. Apostle John showed the heaven to them. But how sad it is to see that the modern church teaches a lot about the earth: how to have a happy family, a successful business, how to be healthy, how to relax, in other words, prosper on earth.

**When they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple at the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead; and they laid hands on them and put them in custody until the morning, for it was already evening. However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.**The Apostles released persecution, they let those people lay hands on them. That was the beginning of God's ruling Church. The first time the Apostles were arrested, then released, then taken again and beaten, put in jail, and then they took James and beheaded him, because the Apostles were ready to die for the sake of the Gospel. The Apostolic impact was powerful, their preaching and ministry of the Spirit released salvation of people.  
Apostles direct their work not only to improve the quality of the spirit, but also to save people. Today we must release those kinds of spiritual rivers that save. We need not only finance and various projects. The Apostolic Movement releases preaching of the Good News. The Apostolic Church is the Church that brings salvation to the world.

**Apostolic attraction**

**On the next day, their rulers, elders, and scribes gathered.**  
That is, the whole religious elite of the region gathered to judge the Apostles. The Apostolic attraction of the authorities’ attention began.  
The Apostolic Church influences the world with its prayer. It closes the doors of the curse. We believe that wherever church appears, that carries the governing prayer, God's order is established. God's Kingdom will be on earth, as it is in heaven. We can move mountains with our faith.  
So the scribes gathered the next day. What for? They gathered to decide how to take off James's head, and execute Peter after James. But the Lord took Peter out to Rome, where he was later crucified with his head down.  
It was the Apostolic attraction for the authorities, which was expressed in pursecution, but then in the multiplication of God's Kingdom. And we must draw the authorities.  
But how? There is such a tendency among modern churches - to make friends with the authorities. Churches strive to have contacts, arrange “prayer breakfasts,” where they want to see representatives of the authorities, - they do everything to win the favor of the rulers, they are not ready to suffer for the Gospel. Is this a secret compromise and a way to avoid persecution?  
Many pastors in the previous century became heralds of the Fuhrer's ideas. They spoke that Hitler raised the German economy and brought prosperity to it. But then the concentration camps opened. Where did the pastors end up? In the most terrible heresy, delusion, because they compromised and stood together with people in fascist uniform, identifying themselves with their message and works. The same thing can happen today at other levels. The church can be politicized so much that, it is practically no longer different from the world. This may go too far.

The church can act in three statuses. The first is that she becomes a servant. This happens when the church serves the government and pleases the authorities, violating the Word of God. She blesses any decisions of the authority. She is, in fact, a servant to Caesar.  
The second status is mistress. In face of priests, she blesses the authorities for wrong marriages or for war. The emperor is afraid that the church will not bless him, as its influence is very great in a political sense. What is this? This is mistress. Servant there, mistress here. This is a false doctrine.  
And the third status of the church is free Church. She neither serves Caesar, nor rules over fornicators, she is free for Christ. This is a heavenly status. This is the kind of church we must stand in and the kind of churches we must plant. Why does the devil hate her? Because he cannot “sit” on her, he cannot use her, she does not submit to him, she is not afraid of him and does not reckon with him.  
When the government is hostile to the church, and when we seek favor with the authorities and want to make peace with them, this is not standing in truth. Jesus says His Kingdom "is not of this world." The nature of the Church is heavenly, and to blend this nature with the earthly one means to go in delusion. You can lose everything if you go this way, so the Church needs to stay awake. This revelation was passed on to us by the ministers of the persecuted Church, because they saw it with their own eyes, they went through trials with their hearts and lives. A whole system was trained to destroy the Church. It was not just persecution. There is a spiritual war going on on the global level. This is the war with the dragon.

**When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained people, they marvelled.**  
In the preaching of the first Church there was Apostolic boldness and straightforwardness. The Spirit of the Scriptures must be audible. Apostolic preaching is always pure and direct. It calls a spade a spade. John was gentle, but the listeners testified of his courage. Once this gentle young man fleed from Gethsemane, being not yet baptized with the Holy Spirit.   
He went through his spiritual, fiery night. Eventually, people saw this gentle young man fearless.  
The young generation, even underaged boys and girls, must have the anointing to be fearless. We can speak in this vein about a certain Apostolic spiritual "dress code." Look at how the Apostles looked like: “people uneducated and untrained”, but “fearless”. People defined that they had been with Jesus, because they were like Him. They released the same spiritual traditions, the same anointing in the Spirit, that is, the power of Jesus Christ, the spirit of Christ, rested upon them.  
Today in churches we most often hear the word of consolation. What will a sinner say when he gets in such a meeting? “I know that God loves me. I hope, He can comfort, and He is always with me. I need comfort, but not from you. I need a Word from the Lord.” The men of the First Church stoodbefore Sanhedrin and fearlessly released the truth. This is an Apostolic pattern.

**Seeing the healed man standing with them, could not say anything against it.**  
The confusion produced by the Apostles was about their fruit, which was real. The elders ordered them to leave Sanhedrin and began to think what to do with these people? In order not to give this case publicity, they decided to intimidate the Apostles. The Sanhedrin is the spiritual prosecutor's office, and the measures taken by it were very threatening. But the Apostles held to the simplicity and the power of heaven. They knew they were standing before the throne of God. And the whole structure of the Roman Empire was only a human “anthill”, which was alarmed.

**But Peter and John answered and said to them: “You judge, whether it is fair before God to listen to you more than to God?”**I speak directly from the Word, as the Apostles answered the authorities. Perhaps today you would listen to a juridical seminar on the subject of how cleverly and cunningly keep peace with the authorities. But that is not Apostolic preaching. How would a juridical seminar "release" the healing of the lame? Will it raise the dead? That is exclusively a miracle of the supernatural God. When His ruling power is affirmed, then miracles happen.  
The spiritual governing grace released what no doctor can do. They are not able to raise up the one lame from his birth.  
Brother Rain, a member of the Tallinn Awakening, once prayed for me. He is an amazing man, a very meek brother, an old man. He told us how the youth of their church got jealous about prayer. The Lord began to baptize people with the Holy Spirit, and miracles began. The news about the fire of the awakening spread like lightning. People from all over the Soviet Union gathered in Tallin - even from the east of Russia. The church had not yet seen people fall under the power of the Holy Spirit, but in Tallinn, right at the prayer, people began to go into trance, got healed from incurable diseases. The train stations of Tallinn were packed with thousands of thirsty people - people came there for God's miracle.

Those were the times of the Soviet Union, the time of persecution of believers. But the work of the Spirit was impossible to conceal, because it had become too obvious and open. Then the secret services began to threaten the church: "If someone else with you falls down, we will close your church!" And also: "We forbid you to preach in Russian, only in Estonian." Shortly before, the security services planned to totally “supress” the awakening: they cunningly decided to “drive” all the churches participating in the awakening into one place, giving permission to hold meetings only in one building, the Protestant kirche.  
When brother Raine was telling this, he cried because something terrible happened after: “We got scared and made a compromise. It was not the special services who made this decision, but the brothers. The organs forbade preaching in Russian, forbade people to fall, we agreed, and the revival stopped.” This brother is about 80 years old, but he still cries when he talks about this step that the brothers took. Such a pure brother, a true child of God. Let's take a lesson from this.  
The Apostles didn’t get broken. They beat them more, then they were locked up in prisons, they cut off James's head, but the Kingdom multiplication increased due to the fact that they had been sent and they went to fulfill what Jesus had commanded them on the Mount of Olives.

**And being let go, they came to their own companions and reported all to them ...**That is, the Apostles returned to the Apostolic base. Reinforcement happens not in loneliness, but in the Body of Christ. Everyone must stay in submission to unity. Return must always take place - to strengthen the local community.

**When they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord...**  
There came joy among God's people, and prayer followed it. It was an Apostolic Prayer and prophetic quoting of the revealed Word. They proclaimed a Psalm, where the question is asked: “Why do the nations rage?” And then an interpretation follows:

**And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to Your servants that with great boldness they may speak Your Word ...**This is what we should do. We should turn attacks into spiritual activities — prayer and preaching of the Gospel. Please, preach the Gospel every day!

**And place was shaken after their prayer ...**  
There happened a blow at the earth, for the earth is His foot stool.  
**... where they were gathered, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the Word of God with boldness.**  
We see the result of the Apostolic prayer: first, an earthquake; second, - the Church being filled with the Holy Spirit, that is, a spiritual rise; and the third was the bold preaching - the preaching of the Word of God.

**The multitude of those who believe of one heart and one soul; and no one called anything of his possessions his own, but they had all things in common.**  
This is the life of the Apostolic Church. See the kind of atmosphere. You went home, slept, and then you returned to God's people. In the First Church there was fellowship every day. The First Church had one soul and one heart, no one called his personal property his own, and with great power the Apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and great grace was upon them all.  
In our congregation, brothers and sisters not only serve, but work to help those in need. Regardless of all the attacks and reproach, the church continues to share the joy of fellowship and distributes as anyone needs. This is how the Lord “lays the table in the sight of the enemy”, and if the Lord lays the table for us, then it is abundant food. This all happens not because the pastor is wise, but because the grace of God dwells in the church, it has the Apostolic dimension, and we move in it, and God moves through us.

**You will be my disciples**

**In those days, when the disciples multiplied, there rose a complaint against the Hebrews by Hellenists because because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of needs.**  
    
The description of the life of the First Church reveals to us the difficulties that the church faced in the first years of its existence. We see how it passes through and gains firmness.  
We see that not simply people multiplied in church, but disciples. We must multiply disciples. The Word of God specifically says that DISCIPLES multiplied. An “average parishioner” is a person who comes to church every Sunday. We cannot call such a person a disciple. Because he is not following Jesus. He comes to church, he has daily life, he may not sin, he keeps the commandments, but this does not mean that he moves in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Where is the criterion, where is the bar, when we begin to call a person not just a saved one, not just a Christian, but a disciple of Christ?

There are signs of discipleship. «If you abide in God's Word, you are truly My disciples». This means that a disciple abides in the Word. «If there's love among you…» The nature of the Church and the nature of a disciple is to abide in love. The love abiding in a congregation proceeds from the believers that abide in love. If I abide in love I carry its atmosphere.

Where is the criterion, by which we can define whether the person before us is just a believer or a disciple? Can we call our people disciples? Of course, in churches there will always be people newly converted, carnal, natural, that will never become disciples. But we must work with disciples. Because when trials or persecutions crush upon us, it's disciples who stand through, and it's disciples that the church is held with.

It is said in the Word: «Measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there…» Holy Spirit rests in those who worship. The whole power of the church is comprised in how many true disciples there are in the church. Even a leadership team can have it unwisely when they think that leaders are people who must have some kind of education. If, for instance, someone has pedagogical education it means that he will be a good teacher in Sunday school. Perhaps, sometimes it is true, but when we speak about the gifts of the Spirit these things often don't matter, and sometimes even stand in the way. Therefore, today we make an emphasis on the spiritual foundation, on the gifts of the Spirit. We need to uncover gifts, so that the disciples can move in them. It is very unusual to build such a church, but this is actually the kind of church where Christ is the Head, where Holy Spirit Himself distributes the gifts as He pleases, but not as He is «ordered»!

The Holy Spirit builds the foundation, and we begin to crave for the greater gifts. The Lord distributes His grace the way He had planned it in His Providence. Therefore, find your destiny in God, do everything to receive knowledge about your life from the Lord, understanding of your gift, what you are called to, and reinforce it through your craving for the supporting gifts that will enrich your ministry.

**Principles of Descipleship**

We are talking about the mystery of God's stewardship. So multiply disciples. If I were asked, what is the main principle of making sons, daughters and disciples? A very serious question, not an easy one. What can I boast of? We had one guest, a brother, he said he had 20 people involved with him in the ministry. If you have people who will follow God with you, wherever He leads, you can change this world. They will be any place at any time, where and whenever they are called. These are servants of God.  
Talking with parishioners is one thing. They may listen or not listen - this is their conscience, they will answer before the Lord themselves. In this kind of community everyone drinks from the Stone and eats manna that comes from heaven. You can collect it with mud, with sand, you can eat it, throw it away, you can even hide and keep it for Sabbath, and worms will fill it - do whatever you want. But disciples receive differently.  
Paul says to his son: "I charge you before the Lord Jesus...". What does it mean,"I charge you"? Or Paul orders: “For this reson I left you in Crete, that you would set right what remains unfinished and appoint elders in every city, as I commanded you.” How is it - “commanded”? This is church, not any army... Paul speaks with such authority because he addresses a true disciple. When Jesus spoke to the crowds, among those passing by there were also enemies who came to spy on Him, there were ordinary people too, who came for bread.  
The same kind of people are found in church today. Among those who come there are followers, disciples and also Apostles. Each section has a different level of influence and power. Father speaks to his sons directly.  
How to build up disciples? First of all, I think, you need to share your life, pour in faith. These are not seminars, this isn’t stuff for a notebook. This is something bigger. Jesus spent the night on the mountain, before He chose the twelve Apostles. When He went to His Father, the Apostles had to choose another Apostle instead of Judas Iscariot. He was to be the one who witnessed the sufferings of Christ. Jesus said it Himself: "You have remained with Me in My trials."

What did the disciples do? They were with Jesus in all the vicissitudes of life: not only when He fed, delivered, resurrected and performed miracles. They were also in Gethsemane, where He wept, and His sweat drops were like drops of blood; one of them was at Golgotha, at the cross, and received the blessing to take care of the mother of Jesus in flesh. That is, they went the way from the bottom of the ocean to the height of heaven. They saw Him transfigured on the mountain and saw Him weep in helplessness, as He hoped on His Father. This is who the Apostles are. They had to go through a certain way. "Descended" first – in order to be "ascended" then. That is why the Lord gives us to go through suffering and trials that are unpleasant for us, they are incomprehensible to us, but we go through this in order to fill and extend the boundaries of the Kingdom.  
Who will preach in prison if you don’t go there? Who will preach in the government if you don’t walk through these doors? Extend the Kingdom with yourself in order to fill everything! The Lord fills the world with Himself through the Church. He fills with the Church, with His Body, the earthly kingdom, in order to subdue the heavenly and the earthly things under the Head of Christ. This is the revelation of the Holy Spirit about the mystery of God's stewardship.

**Acts of the Apostles**

**Chapter 6**

**Multiplication of students**

**In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied** ...  
So, the disciples multiplied. Multiply disciples! If you multiply disciples, the church will be multiplied. Work for having disciples! If Jesus worked for a crowd, He would have a million Apostles. But He focused on the disciples. The Twelve Apostles of Christ changed the whole world.  
Disciples must see commitment in you. A mentor who plays a role and then goes to rest from this role is not a mentor. He who lives in the House of God dwells in it always. He is on the front line.  
Persecutions come, trials come - but he continues to stand and even strengthen the weak in faith. This is the Apostolic dimension, the true upbuilding of disciples. Disciples are not built up from sermons only, but from your being a wholesome person with the Lord. You are not perfect, but you are open and your spirit is wide open. This is Love.  
Share your life with your disciples. Live with them. Then they will take all the best from you, and your faith will be multiplied. Therefore, first, have faith, pure one.

**... there rose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.**  
This, too, was an attack on the church, new schemes of Satan - complaint. People were expecting the imminent coming of Christ, they were selling their estates. Imagine quite a small city of Jerusalem, about one hundred thousand population. Many devout people gathered for the Feast of Tabernacles. And suddenly a noise comes from heaven across the whole city - a whirlwind, the sound of awakening. A sign of the Spirit happened, which was testified by signs and wonders. The whole city ran to the doors of the upper room. There were 120 people who had been in prayers and supplications for ten days. The noise from heaven came and rested in this upper room, and above the heads of the disciples there appeared divided tongues. They began to speak with other tongues and utter about the wonderful and wondrous works of God.

The movement began: after the sermon, three thousand people, baptized by the Spirit, joined them; the lame man was healed; then another five thousand came ... the Apostle is taken in bonds, Jerusalem is all in commotion. And note, several days before some prophets had been resurrected. There were unbelievers and there were believers. Out of jealousy, people "twisted snares", they seized Christians. There were Roman warriors who stood aside, servants of Pontius Pilate. The Roman Empire then colonized Judea. That is, it was a very difficult political and spiritual situation. But the Church was growing! Imagine, in such a small town - eight thousand members.  
The apostates returned, everyone began to flow to Jerusalem, and a thousand members mega church was formed there. But the worship continued in the temple, so when Paul came he was made to offer a sacrifice according to the oath, etc. It was a very unusual time. And it is precisely at this time that a complaint occurs in the church.  
There arises a danger of stopping the awakening and the threat of division - the Hellenists were neglected by the Israelites in distribution. That is, those who distribute food give first to their own people, then to others. The pots smell, everyone is hungry - and the Hellenists also donated their finances, sold their possessions, and those were big finances - but the food was first distributed to the Jews! That is, you wait, first we give it to our folks. And these are brothers and sisters. Can you imagine what was happening in the hearts of Hellenists? And the complaint rose. Complaint is very dangerous for the fire of life.

**Then the twelve Apostles summoned the multitude of the disciples, said: "It is not good that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables ..."**  
  
This is the Apostles' reaction - to bring peace, to show the way out. An Apostle quiets down, he always pacifies. With him comes peace, and not irritation or disorder. He brings stability and faith.  
The human factor is always there. But do not be afraid of the human factor. It will always be that someone is annoyed, someone is offended, someone slammed the door - all this is understandable. Never mind, stop now, God is stronger! The Holy Spirit will consume it. The serpent of Moses will devour other serpents. It is important that you have the staff of Moses inside and that there is at least one who will say: “Stop now, let the peace of God come!” There is a problem of panic arising in the war – that's a very dangerous thing. The enemy may not be there, but panic takes the army from the battlefield - people run in fear and crush each other. All the work must be done in peace and calmly. A scared man cannot solve important issues.  
The thing that the Apostles decided to get separated and to choose practicing the Word of God was the right decision. The Apostolic ministry is in the Word of God. This is the highest priority of the Church — that the true Word is taught. In all the persecutions, peripetias that we go through, we get empowered with the power of the Word, so that we may see things the heavenly way, have heavenly reasoning. In order to see prophetically, we need a Word that will lift us above the human things. Therefore, Apostles should practice the Word.

**Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation (known ones), full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom...**

Seven wise men, full of the Spirit, were sought out. I think this was also a prophetic tradition in the culture of the Jewish people: seven pillars, seven days, etc. It is a good number, seven. And pay attention to the three criteria of choosing deacons. The first one - “known ones,” that is, the tested ones, the tried ones. To know something is to trie it. Deacons must have experience.  
The second one - “full of the Holy Spirit,” they must have spiritual life. In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit, one must always be connected to the Source, one must constantly be in fellowship, in the Word. That is, spiritual people are the ones filled with the Holy Spirit. They put the spiritual as the foundation of their lives. “Full of wisdom” is both the gifts of the Spirit and the experience of life.  
  
**And the saying pleased the whole congregation; and chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nikolas, a proselite from Antioch.**

It turns out that at the time when there was not yet church of Gentiles in Antioch, it was namely from Jerusalem that the first gifts of ministry came. I think Paul prayed for Antioch, his prayer preceded the Gentile Church. Perhaps he moved on there afterwards. Among the seven deacons there was one converted from the Gentiles, named Nikolas. This is wonderful. The First Apostolic Church had the significance of an international, cross-cultural church.  
The church itself chose the deacons — the saying pleased the whole congregation. You can see, Apostles didn’t just command, they walked in one heart with the church.

**... and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and others**

It was pleasing to the congregation. When I was ordained in the persecuted brethren and proposed for a minister, I remember how several criteria were taken into account. The first one was conformity with the Word of God; the second one was the consent of the church, a testimony that the future minister was accepted and loved by the people; and the third criterion was the revelation of the Holy Spirit. This amazing teaching came from the persecuted Church. And we must take it and be armed with this true teaching, so that our ministers may be faithful and steadfast.

**... whom they set before the Apostles, and these, having prayed, laid hands on them**  
The Apostles laid hands, so we believe in the laying of hands. These are the elementary teachings, but nonetheless it is a serious action. If to speak about traditions, about the sacraments, it is not only the Supper and baptism we speak of. Marriages, blessing of children, laying on of hands and ordination are performed in Church. These are also traditions and sacraments. And we hold to them. What happened as a result?  
  
**Kingdom Growth**

**And the Word of God increased, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem**

Two things happened - the Word of God spread, and the disciples multiplied. What does it mean,“the Word of God increased”? It spread, it was spoken in houses, it was heard in the streets. Along with this disciples multiplied. Not believers, not parishioners, but disciples. There is a big difference between disciples and believers. We spoke in the beginning — not just saved, parishioners, newly converted, interested, but disciples – that is adifferent bar. Jesus raised disciples. He said: "Go and disciple all nations."  
The result of a built up church is growth. Therefore, we need to build up our church, ask for the spirit of order, the spirit of government. If to bring order— put the family in its place, the church — in its place, then a completely different grace will begin working, and God's presence will multiply, and demons will have nothing to do with it, you just need to bring order. God is the God of peace and order. Therefore, pray for the churches to be built up according to the will of God. See what useful information is contained in the sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles! We draw directly from the Scriptures, we take it and receive it. Not from a textbook, not from a theological book - God gives us revealed Word, and we learn from the Apostles. This is Apostolic teaching.

**and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith ...**  
As they would say today, proselytism began, the religious ones came to faith ... Let God take His children out of dead structures into the living Body of Jesus Christ!

**Apostolic dimension on all the gifts of the Church**

**And Stephen, full of faith and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.**  
So the quality of deacons in the Apostolic Church was Apostolic. We are talking about the Apostolic Church. There can be a church that doesn’t have Apostles, but it is Apostolic, because it is connected with an Apostle or Apostles, and it carries Apostolic dimension. That is, it walks in the same teaching and dimension of the knowledge of the Lord and practices the same tools that there are in the Apostolic base.  
Therefore, if they had daughter churches somewhere in Judea or Samaria, they were Apostolic. When Apostles Peter and John came to Samaria and laid hands, the Holy Spirit began to baptize people. What happened in the Samaritan church? It became Apostolic, although there were no Apostles in it. The Apostles laid hands on the believers, the people were baptized with the Holy Spirit, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, but the Samaritan church remained in the Apostolic network, it continued to bear Apostolic dimension.

Carry Apostolic dimension! When we choose things that are convenient for us, but we don’t accept the fullness of God's working grace, then the scheme on the whole doesn't work. For example, you have a good presentation of teaching, good relationship with people, a good level of unity, but you have no prayer, and the grace doesn’t work as much as it could.  
Why don't you pray? Because it is “inconvenient” for you to pray: the city is too big, people are busy, they work a lot, they don’t have time for prayer. But, in fact, the problem is in the pastor - if he starts with himself, if he is the first one who gets up for prayer - then there will be those who will be «added» to him. Do not reproach people or rebuke them - they come for grace, let them receive grace from you. But at the same time someone must “die”, there must be a leaven that will make all the dough, there must be someone who will bear the cross of the church on himself.

It is possible to carry Apostolic dimension in a church with no Apostle through the connection of the church to the Apostolic base in dimension and format. The church needs to receive the whole "set of ingredients" that there is in the Apostolic base, and not just partially pull out things suitable and think that the entire Apostolic dimension is activated in the church. Therefore, the quality of deacons in the Apostolic Church was very high. Philip was taken in the air, Stephen became the first martyr, his face shone like that of an Angel. It was the Apostolic grace on the deacons - they acted not weaker than the Apostles. Today we would call the deacons of the first Apostolic church “super Apostles”. But they were mere deacons.

**“But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council. They put forward false witnesses who said, "This man incessantly speaks against this holy place and the Law; for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us.”  
  
  
There is always a way out!**

The schemes of the enemies of the Gospel began. That is, persecution arose. The Apostolic Church releases persecution, do not be surprised by this.  
We recently discussed about the picture of the world, how controversial it is and demands the Apostolic vision and revelation. For example, the Pope urged Christians to repent before homosexuals. A few weeks before this news a Word about eunuchs was spoken in our church. The Word of God says that there are such people who were made eunuchs by men. What is there to do for people who, before they turned to God, had change their sex? – Remain the way you are. Do not change your sex. Do not fornicate. Do not join gay parades. Being a hermaphrodite or transvestite, you can come to Christ and become a virtuous man of God. This is the way out. You can be a “holy transvestite,” however strange it may sound. But you will not hear such sermon often.  
The Pope urged all Christians to repent for homophobia. This is a trend. Something must change. Wait for the release of greater forces. When the bottomless pit opens, a new cup is poured out. These are all periods - a period changes a period. Things will not remain unchangeable. One period ends with the next period, and a new one begins. We are in a transitional period, including Russia. We see pressure increasing and the church is experiencing not the easiest time. But it continues to carry the light of the Gospel!  
A church that stands firm in persecution and continues to labor at all times grows a whole way stronger. Our response to the trials is reinforcement of evangelism and multiplication of work. When the church stands in the Apostolic anointing that way, it will grow even

in persecution. Persecution will stand in good stead.  
Someone said that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. Therefore, we are not surprised at what we see today: the same kinds of schemes were plotted against the Church in the first years of its life.

**... they stirred up the people and the elders ...**For the Roman Empire, the first Church was a dangerous sect. It released a message, which was distorted, because of envy, by the wicked people, who set the authorities against the Church.

**And all that sat in the Sanhedrin, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an Angel.**  
This is the glory of Apostolic ministers! We must pray for ministers. Pray for pastors, pray for deacons - that the glory of God be released in them!

**The Book of Acts**

**Chapter 8**

**Prayer for Revival**

**Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution released against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.**

In the beginning of my journey in the Lord, the book by Oswald Smith "The Revival we need" got into my hands. I was shaken by the testimonies from this book. I wanted to learn to pray for hours, like Brainerd, and the whole night through like John Wesley and Evan Roberts. I was touched by the testimonies of men of God who interceded for different countries of the world. They were sweating in prayers, their legs were shaking when they got up from intercession. And I was jealous that I didn’t love God as much as those brothers.

Awareness started to grow in me that there were people who loved the Lord more than me. I wanted to learn from them and tried to pray at nights. It didn’t work. It was very difficult to stand even through one hour in prayer. But gradually I prayed for the Revival more and more...

I remember, while working in the night shift, I was looking at a part of the city, lit upwith lights, and asked: “Lord, give me people!” I dreamed that there would be somebody with me, at least one person, who could stand in prayer for Revival. And I literally "fell ill" with this vision. I read the diary of Oswald Smith, where he wrote: "... a death causing longing for Awakening started in me." At first he prayed only with Dr. Hooper, and then "... up to a thousand people gathered praying for Revival."

Unexpectedly I received a letter saying: “You are being called into the Bible College, to Moscow. We need two things from you. The first one is your pastor’s characteristics of you, and second - write your vision of the Revival.”

I had to write my opinion on the "Revival"! Oh, it was my favorite topic! “I believe in the global total Revival, and I am praying for it”, - this was what I sent in my letter to Moscow. Soon I received a confirmation, which said that I had been accepted into the college "School of Christ”. Through all the months that we studied at the Bible College we had to labor much in the Word, fast and prayer. Also everyone was to speak a sermon. And I, of course, prepared a sermon on the Revival. I remember it even now, point by point, though it was over 20 years ago. It was the thing that I still live by.

Today I keep asking for Revival. May it always be within us - prayer for Revival! Every day prayer for a world wide, total Awakening! Do not forget the Blood of Christ! And do not forget the Revival! When you pray for the Revival, the Book of Acts will become closer to your heart. We are called to expand our knowledge of God!

The Revival of the nations is something that should get hold of each man of God who is burning with the fire of the Holy Spirit. The Lord will bring revivalists on your way. You will not be an ordinary man if you take this seriously. The deeper you stretch, the faster will other anointed ones “dig the tunnel” towards you. God will connect them with you and you with those who are your kind! Do you know which kind you are of? You are of the same kind that your prayer is. What you thirst for the most in God is your test, your caliber! By prayer you can see a person, his future, where he is going to and how much he loves the Lord.

Therefore, the Lord wants us to stretch ourselves. Stretch in the mind, stretch in the heart and pray for Revival.

**The persecutor of the church is the answer to prayer**.

When the First Apostolic Church interceded for the Revival, there appeared a man named Saul. An extraordinary person. But he was a potential revivalist! God answered the church's prayer for Revival

by sending them an enemy, a very cruel man! Saul "drove men and women", imprisoned them, and moved in great violence against the Church of Christ.

But it was the answer to the prayer for Revival! They interceded:

“God, grant us to declare with great confidence!” Suddenly Saul and people like him appear. The chosen great ones will appear as an answer to this prayer. Today there are "Sauls" like that walking around us. Maybe not necessarily persecuting the church, not necessarily like him. But there are revivalists among us already! And we must recognize them.

God will answer prayers not the way we expect. We must simply believe. Therefore, let us pray for Revival!

**At that timea great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem andall except the Apostles were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.**

Great persecution against the church! What kind of persecution was it that God called “great”?

There was willingness in church to suffer with the Gospel of God, and the church immediately accepted it for itself - not to step away from Christ. Once Apostles had already renounced - they fled away from Christ in Gethsemane. Peter repented, got cleansed, and he has no desire to renounce the second time. Apostles stay because they must stand for the Church. They remain, in order to carry sorrows of churches. But many scattered in different places of Judea and Samaria.

Imagine, thousands of people are being scattered in Judea and Samaria! But not the Apostles. The Apostles remained in Jerusalem to strengthen the Apostolic church.

Brothers and sisters, we need such kind of ministers who will die for the church. When our church suffers greatly, we will need the kind of pastors who will stand, whom the people will look at and get strengthened. Do you understand? We need real pillars that are examples of perseverance and firmness– those ones that cannot be broken.

**Change of traditions in the First Church**

**And the devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.**

Interesting, there were some traditions in the First Church that demanded changes. Look, Stephen, the hero of faith, who said at his

death: "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God! ”, - is being buried with great lamentation.

Today, when we bury good Christians, we mourn, but also gladden.

We have no hopeless grief, we are not "torturing ourselves" because of the dead. Because there should not be despair in people with "open" eyes. But it is interesting to me, what traditions did the First church have, if it is written that they "made great lamentation over him"?

There is such a thing - “literalism” - and, if this word had not been revealed to me, I would say that we also need to make great lamentation at our funerals. But I want to say that this was a tradition that demanded a CHANGE! Apostle Paul did it. Do you know where it is? In his letter to Thessalonians he teaches “lest you sorrow as others who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Paul is changing this tradition, which was in Judaism - to make great lamentation and "suffer" because of the ones who have died in Abraham’s bossom. He changes this tradition so that the major thing at the funeral was not sorrow, but hope! Jesus is Lord!

Imagine, they are burying such a hero as Stephen - and “suffering to death”. I want to to drive out demons. I want to shout: “Stop it! There must be a different atmosphere! What a glory he has taken now! Let us sing about eternal life! Let us sing, that heroes of faith are going to heaven!"

What kind of traditions are we setting today? One day Rehoboam took shields of gold of Solomon, sold them and paid tribute to enemies. And the glory that was in the temple of Solomon dimmed because he had replaced the shields of gold with copper ones. Today we should not replace the glory of the First Apostolic Church with dim "material" of the weakened traditions of denominations.

**As for Saul he tormented the church, entering every house, and, dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.**

The First Apostolic Church prayed the right prayers: they asked the Lord to grant them courage to speak God's Word with boldness. They prayed for Revival because they had received the Word to go to the ends of the earth. God answers prayers, and Saul goes, dragging men and women, throwing them into prisons ... He is moving on to crush himself on the Stone.

**Persecutions for multiplication**

**Meanwhile, those who were scattered went everywhere and preached the Word.**

I like it so much! Persecution allowed by God — for the sake of multiplication of the Gospel preaching. And the decision made is to turn the circumstances into the success of Evangelism. Imagine: people have come out of Jerusalem, harsh persecutions are happening. First, the authorities intimidated Apostles Peter and John. Apostles listened to them and said: “Should we obey more God or you? You judge.” They were let go.

The second time they were taken into custody. An Angel frees Peter and sends him for ministry right away in the night. Peter, with no good sleep, no face washed, not refreshed in the shower, had to immediately get up and go preaching.

I really love it! This speaks of the speed of the task, of the speed of its

execution! The warriors that guarded Peter look and wonder, because the locks are left untouched. They come, and they are told that Peter is already preaching freely. They take him cautiously, fearing the people, and bring him in the Sanhedrin, and seeing that Peter cannot be broken, beat him. The second time he was arrested they already beat him.

Peter walks out beaten, rejoicing and exulting that for the Name of Christ had undergone reproach and humiliation. The third time they take him and no longer let him go. The Angel takes Peter out again. Peter appears in church, but now he has to hide in persecution. Persecution is getting harder. James's head is cut off. This is serious! Imagine that your church pastor has been beheaded. Half the church would not come for the next meeting. Why would they need it? If they are focused only on earthly goals. They are not ready to suffer in order to believe.

Who is willing today to suffer for the Church of the Lord? Only the one who has seen Christ and followed Him! And this condition - willingness to suffer for Jesus - must come upon us. When it comes, brothers and sisters, it will be easy for us to overcome to pray, to fast, to go to the night meeting... We will be on another level! Because the specifics of our faith will give us victory over temptation. Therefore, the question today is not how to overcome sin, but how to accept Jesus with all your heart! If we accept Him and we walk with Him, then we will overcome sin. Do you know why? Because we will hate it. Hallelujah!

And so, "they scattered and preached the Word." These people decided to preach the Gospel and not hide.

Evangelism must be in the nature of our faith. It must be in our DNA!

**Ascending in the Gifts of Ministry**

**So, Philip came to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.**

It was originally written about Philip that he was a deacon ordained together with Stephen, and that he had four daughters prophesying.

Then it is said about him that he was no longer called “deacon”, but “Philip-Evangelist." Paul was first called Saul, and after a few chapters he is already called "Apostle Paul," so it is with Philip. He entered the gift of ministry through the practice of evangelism. I admire Philip who had reached his calling. He entered the fifth gift of ministry, became a Gospel preacher, an Evangelist.

If you look at how Philip moved on, you will see that the supernatural component of his gift grew exponentially.

At first he came to the city of Samaria, just preaching Christ.

But then Philip starts flying in the air. He disappears after the baptism! The Holy Spirit speaks to him, miracles happen. He reaches the supernatural component.

When you and I come to the Lord, we are simply believers, but we need to reach the supernatural level! For this you need to labor in the

sphere of the Spirit!

One brother came to our church, he resurrected many people from the dead. Within the past 30 years, there have been 500 resurrections in his ministry, they have prayed over 5,000 dead people. When I watched him I saw one thing – he talks about miracles. People sitting in the auditorium exhalt and triumph -

who doesn’t like resurrection of the dead?! But then he testifies

how they shot him, stoned him, threw him into the river, how he died and rose again!

All the miracles that happen in his ministry would be just a theater

if it were not for one thing: the price he pays. He said he had prayed, interceded with tears that God would grant him to move in miracles, but nothing happened. And then at one moment it came -

a supernatural dimension. But now he spends daily several hours

in the presence of God, soaking with His Word.

We see the same thing in Acts: Philip, the deacon, came to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. Where is the supernatural? An ordinary man, like you and I, started with the same thing that you and I have now. But then he moved to a new level, because he had been faithful to his calling. I admire that!

We had an interesting conversation with this brother who raises the dead:

- You are first time in Russia, let’s go, I will show you around the city.

- No, I don’t want to.

- What do you want?

- Take me home. I want to pray.

First time in Russia, and didn’t even want to see the city! Imagine,

you come to Jerusalem:

- Let's go to the Old City!

- I don’t want to!

- Let us have a look at Gethsemane, the tomb of the Lord.

- No, I don’t want to.

- But what do you want?

- Pray.

Is this normal, you think? Man of God is like that. This is why he raises the dead. There is a PRICE for supernatural things. We spoke with a brother that it’s impossible to simply take and “glue” a spiritual gift to a carnal man. Do you want to raise the dead while living according to flesh? It will not work. We need to correspond to the gift we ask. If we ask the gift of healing, we must have compassion! We should not impress anyone. We need correspondance.

I asked the brother, “How do you live? How do you move? ”He replied: “I need 4-6 hours, sometimes a whole day to soak in God's Word.” Every day he abides in the Word of God and in prayer. And then goes and raises the dead.

And what price are you willing to pay for the gift you ask for? This is very serious.

**Philip came to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.**

Philip is an ordinary deacon, but he had the dimension of the Apostolic church. He carried the Apostolic grace, not being an Apostle himself. You may not be Apostles, but together you can reach the Apostolic grace. Every faithful servant of the Lord may carry the Apostolic grace as good as deacon Philip carried it.

**And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles, which he did.**

See, miracles have begun! For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralized and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city. Philip came to the city of Samaria and began to release in the spirit the very Life of God. Brothers, sisters, rise up higher and see from a bird's eye: what are you releasing? Can you embrace the city with your spirit? Philip prevailed over the Samaritan city. He was a deacon walking in the Apostolic dimension. We also need to achieve this grace. And if we truly commit ourselves, begin to intercede that our city be taken in the spirit things will happen that happened with Philip. It takes time, it takes the wise ones, it takes the pillars that will move in the revelation of the Spirit and who will obey Him to the end.

**Collision or hidden conflict**

**But there was a certain man, called Simon, which previously practiced sorcery in the city, and astonished the people of Samaria, claimimg he was someone great. And they heeded him because he had astonished them with sorcery for a long time.**

Today in our cities there are also many sorcerers, witches, who practice magic, but do not work miracles. They are way more than you think. Religious gurus, wise men, psychics, traditional healers can be Simon-the-sorcerers. They practice magic on the Holy Scripture, they are called religious people, but, in fact, they are magicians!

When Philip, in simplicity, began to release the Apostolic grace,

Simon-the-sorcerer immediately ran to him. This Simon didn’t "growl": "I’ll strangle you, I'll kill you." No, he came with the words: "Baptize me, I too want to take water baptism." This sorcerer didn’t go into an open conflict, but it was a strategy: to get baptized and join the church membership uncleansed from demons!

And we read further: “Then Simon himself also believed, and being baptized, continued with Philip." A disciple, an intern, a volunteer! See how interesting: "Simon ... SEEING the great powers being done," probably he pried as Philip laid hands, anointed with oil, and was astonished. Such a man he was! Think if he had not been recognized, what he would have done with the church when the Apostles had left? The decay of the church would have begun, and the Revival would have stopped.

So, the sorcerer was baptized without real conversion. See, it turns out that even the Apostles were learning on the way. The First church established the truth while experiencing different events. Paul removed the tradition of weeping at the funeral, it was time to remove the baptism of the unrevived... A fight for the truth was happening! Why? So that we could receive the empowerment with the same genetics - to identify the wrong things and establish the truth. So that we could get the pioneer spirit of the First Apostolic Church!

Because if we do things like everybody else, we will not become the firstborn, we will not eat of the first fruit of the farmers. Pioneers will taste of the first fruit!

A true Apostolic Church is a pioneer church in which there is a discoverer’s spirit: both in teaching and in the fields. Today we want to see the release of this pioneer’s spirit, spirit of courage and boldness!

**Now when the Apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet he had fallen upon none of them: they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.**

In this passage of Scripture we see a very important thing. Remember how Jesus and the Samaritan woman met? The Jews did not communicate with the Samaritans. Samaritans could start some kind of movement of their own. But what is interesting: Philip worked great wonders and signs among the Samaritans; the whole city boomed because of all the healings, casting out of demons, but for some reason the Lord did not send the baptism of the Holy Spirit through this Apostolic deacon. Very interesting.

We sometimes think that it is easier to receive the baptism of the Spirit than healing. But with Philip it wasn't like that. He healed easily, cast out demons easily, but could not release the baptism of the Spirit. Do you understand? He could not release the Spirit for them, because it required the Apostles. Why? Because Samaria was to give out its firstborn under the Apostolic grace. The Apostles came from Jerusalem and subjected Samaria under the Apostolic network. If the Samaritan church had risen on its own, there might have been big problems of divisions and rooting in the wrong teaching. But the Apostles came, laid hands, and the Holy Spirit was granted to the Samaritans. This is amazing! Then they laid hands upon them, and they received the Holy Spirit. There happened submission, the acknowledgement of the covering of the Apostolic Church. And the church of Samaria was born!

The church of Antioch is commonly called the first Gentile Church. But look - is it not a church here? Local Samaritans received salvation, miracles, baptism of the Holy Spirit and water baptism. This is it, the church was born! I’m sure, convinced, they were supervised, and church meetings were taking place there.

The Apostles were witnesses of the movement of God, and I am sure that in Samaria they had organized the first Christian meeting outside Jerusalem. Glory to Jesus!

Let's go back to Simon. He watched miracles take place, and now

He saw the Holy Spirit was granted. And he brought money to the Apostles, saying:“Give me also this power, that the one on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit. This case later formed the basis for the formation of such phenomena as “simony” - selling of church positions, spiritual sacraments. A non-revived baptized sorcerer, this “wrong” church member gave money and ... unveiled himself. I can imagine the astonishment of the Apostles. He was

around them, watched, and there all of a sudden he takes out the money: “Sell me the gift so that through me the Spirit would come”...

**But Peter said to him: “Your money perish with you, because you thought the gift of God could be purchased with money. You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore in this your wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you; for I see that you are poisoned by bitterness bile and bound iniquity."**

Such is the Apostolic truth and true prophetic dimension! Today Peter would be reprimanded for such a blunder in the "consultation". Christian psychologists would have immediately “defecturize” him. At a contemporary prophetic conference Peter would have been stopped for such words. Because you have to console people, first release: “God loves you,” and only then prophesy ... Do you understand? Some even have a code for prophets, which indicates what can and cannot be done when the Holy Spirit comes... When was the last time you received such a prophecy for your life? When did you hear such a thing in church at all? Or on the Christian

TV channel? Probably never in your lifetime. Read the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, the supreme Apostle, prophesied that way. We must read the Bible! It makes me happy and sober! You may say: "It was only Apostle Peter who could prophesy that way!" I feel sorry for you because the Scripture teaches us to be like Peter. In order to move in this grace, you’ve got to have courage, the spirit of pioneers. You need to really meet with the Lord. And do only as the Lord reveals. God wants to move directly, the shortest way! If you start asking, I believe that the Lord will release. TheApostolic truth and directness, the prophetic dimension of simplicityand directness!

**Simon answered: “Pray for me to the Lord, so that**

**None of the things which you have spoken may come upon me. "**

**"Organize" the wind? Or yield to the Spirit?**

I want to ask you a question. Evangelization, which Philip held in Samaria, - with miracles, signs, the birth of the church - tell me how much it cost? How much did this “crusade” cost? How much was the advertisment? How big was the fund? - Zero! How did the preliminary connection with the religious leaders happen to allow this campaign? And how about the official permission from the authorities? All these questions lay in the field of being clothed with the power from above and being legitimately sent from God.

Isn’t it here that we should search today? Instead, we come up with a

Complicated system of dishonor and begin to "pray it through." A "prayed through" system goes instead of clothing with the power from above and searching, anticipating, striving. We need to receive legitimate sending and be moving through persecution, through confrontation with the devil right in a frontal attack. In Christian colleges they will teach how to develop good evangelism through the organization system. We are not against such campaigns, meetings in stadiums, distribution of brochures and things like that - let it all "work."But there is another way. And it is a free way. They pay the price there, but in a different currency. Those are not bank notes.

**The Apostles, having testified and preached the Word of the Lord ...**

That is, they stayed for some time in that place, released

teaching, testimony, labored in the Word.

**They returned to Jerusalem preaching the Gospel in many villages of the Samaritans**

This is the beginning of the missionary movement! They began to spread the Gospel, praise our Lord!

**Now an Angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying: "Arise ..."**

The Lord does not leave Philip, He "spins" his destiny. Philip has

an Angel now. Previously we didn’t read he had an Angel or even saw the Angels. And then suddenly we read:

**Now an Angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying: “Arise, go toward the south, to along the road which goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. That is desert. ” So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, the queen of Ethiopians, the keeper of all her treasury, who had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning and, sitting in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip: “Come near and overtake this chariot ". (...) And he ordered the chariot to stand still, and they both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.**

Philip, a deacon walking in the Apostolic dimension, meets an Angel and receives the messengership not in the pastoral alliance, but straight from heaven! Have you heard of such a thing in our time? He was sent neither by the church council, nor by the leaders of a missionary organization, he was sent by the Angel! It is written: “The Angel said". The Angel gives him an instruction after an instruction, and then the Angel disappears, but the Spirit says to Philip: "Go, and overtake this chariot." That was it, the Angel left, the Spirit began to move. See, what a diversity: Angels, Spirit. And the world we move in isan Angelic, supernatural world.

**When they came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended upon the eunuch, and the Angel of the Lord caught PhiLip away, and the eunuch no longer saw him, and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus and, passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.**

This is a supernatural dimension - a sudden appearance of God’s vessel, the revealing of the Scriptures, the baptism, the falling of the Holy Spirit upon the eunuch. Everything happens not as it did in Samaria. In Samaria the Spirit didn’t fall through Philip. Do you see? In Samaria there were crowds of people healed and delivered from demons. But the Spirit did not fall when Philip baptized them. But here he baptizes the eunuch, and the Spirit comes.

Then the Angel caught him and carried him away. Where to? To Azotus. Philip was found in Azotus and he went and preached the Gospel to all the cities. This is the life of the Spirit! Brothers

and sisters, we are all called into this Apostolic dimension.

Lord, help us!

**Chapter 9**

**"Open windows" in the testimony**

**But Saul, still breathing with threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that whomever he found following this teaching, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.**

There are times when the Lord allows the enemy to crush upon the church. For us this is often something unexpected, but it does happen. Here we see Saul, who is on the edge of insanity, he is breathing threats.

Imagine the kind of a person breathing threats and murder: he

speaks bad about the church, spews only curses. What happened to you, a young man Saul? You used to be such a good boy with your mom and dad. Why do you hate the church so much? What happened to you? Where did all this fury come from?

Spiritual powers were rising in Saul to make him a terrible enemy of the church. But he was on his way to break himself on the Stone. And I believe we can turn attacks against the church into opportunities for a breakthrough. When the church is going through attacks, we must keep our spiritual eyes on the Acts of the Apostles! We do turn our attacks into opportunities for breakthrough! This is exactly the way to look at things - not to sit and lose heart, but to accept these challenges!

There are different periods in the development of movements. If we look at Aposle Paul, we’ll see that in the beginning of his journey he experienced a radical salvation. If you were saved radically, you’ve got to value your testimony, because the Lord uses it. It is very important.

Once a group of God’s people came to our church. And in the course of our fellowship they asked me to share my testimony. I don’t often testify about the details of my past life. I can talk about the day that the Lord brought me out of. But to tell my full testimony - this is not easy for me because when I look into that abyss from where the Lord pulled me out of, I want to cry. It feels like I spoil everyone’s mood... Therefore, in order to go deep into the testimony, I need time and a certain atmosphere.

But then we entered this atmosphere. Suddenly a strong anointing of the Holy Spirit came. They said, “Brother, you have a very powerful testimony. It literally, like viscous oil, enveloped us and drew us along. Please, speak, because you have a tremendous testimony!" I got very much encouraged through that. Then another prophet told me, "I see, there is tremendous power in your testimony."

We can limit our testimony to the moment of repentance: “I was

a sinner, then I repented." But we can testify as the Lord gives us. Perhaps, till a certain event. And we must review our testimony prophetically.

I want to give you a challenge: examine your testimony and make it so that it becomes anointed. Because your testimony is part of the

Gospel! If you are a truly saved person, then you must have a deep living testimony, in which one finds “windows of the supernatural”, an understanding of His way!

Some testimonies are tiring: the man puts emphasis on certain

things just because he has such a value system. And for some people his values ​​are way too low. Therefore, it is necessary to testify as the Holy Spirit gives.

For instance, I can testify of how much money I had or the kind of "important" people I had been connected with, but this may not speak of God’s glory. The listener is more interested in my heart pain and how God set me free from it. We must ask the Holy Spirit what we should testify of, what events or experiences point out. Therefore, ask God to direct your testimony.

It is told several times in the Acts of the Apostles how Paul testifies of the Light that had shone upon him on his way. And each time there are things similar and things different in the manner Paul testifies. The Apostle worked on his testimony. I want to say that if you had a radical encounter with God, if you are a truely born-again person, pray and write down your testimony.

I wrote down my testimony in detail only ten years after my conversion. I am not saying you should not give your testimony, but to me it came only ten years later, God said: "Now write it down." And I wrote down what the Lord had allowed. Later I wrote down more, made my testimony more complete. And then I wrote a little book about my salvation. It is called "On the Road Home." In it I already expanded my testimony with miracles after repentance. Thus, my testimony is getting "thicker”. Not because I keep giving more details about my past, but because the present with God is increasing. When you consider the present, you have also a prophetic view on the past. Therefore, review your testimony; it can be a powerful “atomic bomb” in the Kingdom of the Lord. Through this you can become a man of dectiny. And perhaps, you will receive a Word from the Lord that it’s time for you to write a book. Don’t think you’ve got to be a good writer to do this. Believe me, even deep kind of people, intellectuals, will read and enjoy the simpleness of Christ in our salvation.

**Ascending into discipleship**

So, Apostle Paul had a testimony of radical salvation. It was a starting point for God's movement in his life. Then gradually a new believer was rising into a disciple. This is what happens in our lives. When the light from heaven had blinded Saul, he went to Tarsus. And there he waited. And the Lord was gradually nurturing baby-him. Baby-Paul!

It is difficult to imagine, but it was so: at times he manifested jealousy, at other times grieved brothers, then he repented. It's all normal when we are growing from a baby to a disciple.

Then at one point Barnabas came into his life. One person said that when the disciple is ready, the teacher comes in. Saul was ready –Barnabas came in. When David heard the voice of the messenger calling him to the royal court, he realized the hour of his destiny had come. Saul sees the coming Barnabas, who says: "Come with me to Antioch!"

Saul got ready and went. That’s it! There began the transition of his destiny from a disciple into a minister! Every future servant of God has a moment when the Lord calls him into the ministry. I'm not talking about the question saying: “Who wants ordination?” The Lord Himself chooses the time and the people who will be the doors for you to enter the ministry. I hope we are spiritual people and will give way to the Holy Spirit, so that Jesus Christ may be the Head. It is not an easy task - to humble yourself, to wait, to be crucified with Christ.

Then the expansion of Paul’s ministry began, missions began, connections in the Body of Christ, the team of Apostle Paul arose. The time came when people already listened to him, when prophets and teachers appeared in his church. Paul was already associated with the ministers’ guild. It's such a beautiful moment! I like being among people who know God. It is so wonderful when there is a divine circle of friends who can pray for you. And you’ve got to appreciate that. Therefore, when you meet God's people on your way - and these will not necessarily be super anointed ones, these may just be spiritual brothers and sisters - value them, because God can give you a connection for your whole lifetime.

The ministry of Apostle Paul began to rise. An Apostle can’t immediately be perfect. When in the thirteenth chapter of the Book of Acts, Paul began to be called an Apostle, we realize he was still a beginning Apostle. He is not perfect yet. But he has achieved a certain spiritual set of requirements: inner ones - revelations about God, and outer - powers and miracles, due to which it was testified - Paul has become an Apostle! He has achieved. He is no longer Saul, he is Paul. But he still had to keep raising his level, and he expanded his strength, his character, his revelation - he expanded the scope of his ministry. Paul began overtaking not only regions, but nations.

**Genuine Apostleship**

These were periods of development of his movement. Not just development from a baby into a disciple, but development from a baby into the Apostle of nations! We also must have this vision. An Apostolic church has a vision of development! A true Apostolic base has a vision of raising from babies up to Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Jesus is Lord!

There is a further development of Apostle Paul’s destiny - bonds and martyrdom. Paul went forward in his ministry, but this was not enough. It is not enough to simply develop a network of ministry, then die and part. Paul went through suffering into the death of a martyr, in order to remain forever here on earth.

Being in bonds he wrote letters that we read today. He didn’t just release knowledge out of his mind, he corresponded to his message. He himself was the Word that he preached.

Timothy, Paul’s disciple and future Apostle - do you know what he preached in the first days of his ministry? - The ways of Paul. Just think: bishop Timothy, who ordained elders, moved in churches -

and preached on the ways of Paul! It turns out that someone’s testimony can be the Gospel! And there are disciples who carry the Gospel in themselves, even after Apostle Paul. You can find them in the Church history!

Apostle Paul leaves his trace in history; he left us his message, his example. No one dared to say: “imitate me,” except Christ and except Apostle Paul! Find at least one prophet who would say: "Imitate me." There is none. Moses never said that. Neither did Abraham or Isaiah, speak like this, neither did Jeremiah, neither did any of the Apostles! Only Apostle Paul said: "Imitate me as I imitate Christ." He himself became this Word!

**Anointing on the testimony**

**As he journied and came near Damascus, a suddenly a light shone around him from heaven; he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"  
... Saul rose from the ground and saw no one with open eyes; and they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus; and he was for three days without sight, neither ate, nor drank.**

Radical salvation! Consider the strength incompassed in your testimony. Practice your testimony. Give your testimony tens and hundreds of times! And watch how God uses you. In which parts do the listener's eyes light up. Sharpen your testimony, because it is your sword. If I were given a plain bar, fire, a hammer, an anvil –what kind of sward would I make? How long? How wide? Double edged or sharpened on one side? Twisted like a machete? Or a short one like Romans had? Each nation has its own, special weapon, depending on the combat technique used by the warriors. This is your testimony — the sword that the Lord gives you.  
One night I received a revelation. I saw it as if I had an invisible sword. It was huge and massive, I held it with both hands by the big handle. And I was making a movement that I could not physically do. It was ... like one of the Asian martial arts: in a split second I did several pirouettes spinning around, and the sword whizzed, cutting through the air. I could not see it, but in the spirit I felt that it was a huge sword, like the sword of Goliath, which David had. I could feel it had a form and it was a very scary sword. When I woke up, I asked: “Lord, what is this dream?” The Lord said to me: “This is your anointing.”  
Jesus is Lord! I know that I have an anointing. And it doesn't matter to me where I am, what kind of audience is before me. I doesn’t matter whether they love me or not. It doesn’t matter. Because I have the anointing of the Holy Spirit.  
We must know our anointing. If there were various types of weapons on the wall, which one would you choose? You would choose the one your spirit would lead you to, and you would begin to figure it out, what you can do with it, according to your physical fit, your technique, your style. Do you understand? It all depends on your composition! There is an anointing that envelopes you. There is an explosive anointing: give a word to the brother–and he blows everybody up, freedom and joy come. Another one has an anointing that ignites: you listen to him - and you are excited to live again! And the third one has empowerment with strength. Each of us has his own specifics. We must know our anointing.

**But the Lord said to him: “Go, for he is My chosen vessel, to proclaim My Name before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name’s sake. ”**It turns out that Paul was given the ministry to proclaim the Name of Jesus Christ before the nations, kings and sons of Israel. And he did   
stand before the Roman kings - Felix, Agrippa. He also stood before the sons of Israel and the nations.

Dear, beloved brothers and sisters! You have a calling! Oh, if we knew our calling! Paul the Apostle says: “Ask for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to know what a great calling God has prepared for the saints!” The great calling! You may say: “Probably, this is not about me, I have always been number two, mediocre person”... Do not say that. You grieve the Lord. We need the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to gain an understanding of our calling. God will never go after you and beg. He opens, but does not beg. And even if you don’t know your calling, but you are praying, then the Lord, surely, will lead you out to it. Perhaps, even through punishment or pain and suffering, but He will lead you up like Paul. But if you are a non-praying, a non-seeking person, it can easily happen that your calling will never unfold in your life.  
Someone said that the largest number of unfulfilled hopes lies in the cemetery. A person who does nothing with his calling is like an unfolded and unread book. We need to pray, seek the Lord, release our spirit, plough our hearts, spend time in worship. If you spend time in prayers, if you seek the Lord, God will lead you into His ways, you will have a wondrous destiny. Then you will be ingaged in the network with a wondrous destiny. You will see miracles!

**Divine connection of vessels**

**Ananias went and entered the house and, laying his hands on him he said: “Brother Saul! The Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the roadas you came, has sent me that you would receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. ” And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and suddenly he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.**

Here we see the connection of the rivers. Ananias is an ordinary man who prayed to the Lord, saw the vision and went to the future Apostle of the nations. Ananias might have thought, "Behold, a blind man punished by God, and I received a vision, I came as a prophet. I lay hands on him - instant - and there is healing! Look! I am great!” But Ananias did not fully know what this man would be. The Lord only revealed to him that this man was “My chosen vessel, and I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name’s sake.”  
It is very important to be connected to the right vessels. In our lives, I think, we sometimes made mistakes. God sent people to us in order to “pour in” something in us. But in our pride we blocked these doors. God sent other people, but we thought we didn’t need them. I think something very good was passing by. The river never flows by itself, other rivers and springs flow into it. In the place where one river flows into another, it certainly changes its nature. Before this inflow the river had a different nature than it does after. And when we accept those whom God sends into our lives, we accept the will of God. We accept grace along with these people and undergo changes.

Today you are receiving the grace I have. If you block your heart, you will not receive it, why God has sent me to speak to you. In this case you risk being left yourself. But if you open your heart, you will receive what God has for you. For this you need humility, brokeness and hunger for receiving. For this you need to show spiritual hospitality. I believe that Ananias was Paul's friend to the end of his life. I believe that these people were connected. This is amazing! Brother Ananias came and healed me. I will not step back and will keep in touch with him! Brother Ananias, what did God say to you? What else is revealed to you?  
My son wrote to me that one boy had a dream about me. And in this dream I was fighting with demonic forces. I wrote back to my son: “Please ask the boy to write more detail on his dream, because I am interested in details. I would like to know how big the demons were, and who gave me the sword, since it was in my hand.” The son replied: "Dad, basically, this boy told everything." I wrote: “Son, I need more details”. After a while I received the detailed content. It was important.  
This boy got connected with me, and I accept a revelation from him, because it is one hundred percent prophetic: physically absent, I travel in spirit to my church, where a spiritual battle is going on in this time period, warfare is happening, and my spirit is there as well. And through this little boy the Lord showed that I was fighting with demons and He was strengthening and comforting me. For me this is a great encouragement. We must learn to accept people, whom God sends into our destiny. If we are being proud or opposing, we can block a great blessing. We need to learn to open ourselves for God's movement that comes through His messenger. And for this you need to recognize, humble yourself and accept.  
Once we were invited to South Korea. I have been there many times, and the trip promised to be predictable. But suddenly we felt that God wanted to move us in a special way, and we went.  
And so, we get into a gathering, and there is such an anointing, such worship... I thought: “Where have we gotten to? Such glory, such movement!” Then the night came, brothers and I were already in bed, and suddenly there was a knock at the door! What is this?“

“It is us, sisters, who brought food to feed you.”

We are tired, we want to sleep. But they are breaking through: “No, WE want you to eat!” I was annoyed, even a little angry. I say: "Okay, let's have it, but not long." They got in: "You eat!" They sat down with us. And our place, the hotel, was located deep in the forest, about an hour away from the capital. And these sisters brought us food by taxi.  
We sat down at midnight to eat chicken, drink Coca-Cola not knowing why they had come here. And then one sister says: “Brothers, we are prophets. Now we want to pray for you, and when we start “releasing ourselves”, receive it! This sister can pray loudly, so don't be embarrassed, this is normal. And I'm different, I'm quiet." I thought, “Wow, there it starts!” They began to pray for one brother, and we felt a deep immersion into the Spirit ...  
When my turn came (I received many prophecies in my life, but only a few of this kind), “God's scalpel” went so deep into my spirit! I was shocked, I was stunned, so powerfully the Holy Spirit began to speak into my heart! The sisters prophesied to me for ten or twenty minutes, and I was plunging into the pond of God, I was in a trance, because I was being poured into more and more... God's love and God's wisdom. When I returned home, for about a month I was literally flying in the air, because through these prophecies my healing took place at some deep level.  
Do you see? We had to step over ourselves and accept this “uncomfortable” love of the prophets... Those sisters simply did their job - they were the doors.  
And so, we are talking about Ananias - he became the door. He resisted going to Paul, but the connection still happened. When you recognize a connection and open yourself to it, it will strengthen and multiply the ministry.

**Radical beginning**

**So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples in Damascus. And immediately he began to preach in the synagogues about Jesus, that He is the Son of God.**

I want to point out that Paul preached differently, not like other

Apostles. We read in the Word more than once that the Apostles of the Lamb preached the resurrection in Jesus. Apostle Paul had a slightly different emphasis - the center of his sermon was Jesus Christ. We read: "And immediately he began to preach in the synagogues about Jesus, that He is the Son of God." Remember Paul's sermon: "He is the Christ"! If we want to be like Paul, then we must focus on Jesus! Especially in Israel - to preach about Jesus. Christians often drift away from Jesus, begin searching for points of contact, talking about God without the revelation of the Son. Paul declared straightforward: “This is Jesus”.

**And all who heard were amazed and said: “Isn't this the one who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem? And has come here for that purpose so that he might bring them bound to the high priests." But Saul increased all the more in strength and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.**

The ministry of the chosen disciples has a radical beginning. People wonder at how radically Paul moved. They were not persecuted, and he immediately became persecuted. Because he released such a dimension that the kingdom of darkness immediately rushed at him.  
It is interesting that even when other Apostles ministered there, such persecution would not crush upon them. But Paul appeared - and immediately a revolt rose up, immediately they "got" at him. And we see how radically Paul, as a disciple, began to move.  
Brothers and sisters, I want to encourage you: you’ve got to start moving radically! Just as Apostle Paul did. Because there is your first love! And then there is the loss of your first love. And I bless you to move in your first love! You can move radically!  
The Apostolic Church allows people to move radically! Apostolic Church sustains the spirit of the pioneers! Religious church is afraid of radical people. Apostolic Church gives birth to such and moves them! Jesus is Lord! Glory to Him!  
The dynamics of Paul’s ministry can be seen from the first steps. It is written that he “increased all the more in strength and confounded the Jews, proving that “This is the Christ! ”

**Now after many days, the Jews plotted to kill him.**

They watched the gates day and night in order to kill Paul. Day and night - to kill! What kind of man was this young man, at whose feet the clothes were laid when Stephen was being murdered?! What was it in him that made them not sleep day and night, but watch over to kill him? He had the Spirit of Christ!  
They recently, just a few months ago, had crucified Christ. And there appears Paul, and he is the same as that One was. He must be killed! Because the spirit of antichrist continues to roam the earth.

**And the disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall in a large basket.**  
I can imagine how they were letting him down, the earnest Paul, - they were lowering and envying him: “Paul, you are lucky! You persecuted us, beat us, and now you are a hero!”And Paul silently continued down...  
It is written further that Saul arrived in Jerusalem and tried to join the disciples; but everyone was afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.  
What was it about him that they did not believe he was a disciple? Imagine such a zealous person appears in the meeting! What would he do today, the new convert Saul? It is written that they were afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the Apostles.  
  
**But Barnabas took him and brought him to the Apostles; and he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he boldly preached in Damascus in the name of Jesus.**I thank God for the Apostles! They saw Saul and recognized Christ in him, they gave their approval and accepted him as a whole church. They did not put him on testing for membership, they neither humbled him anyhow, nor disciplined him, they let him into their churches.  
We need Apostles! We will pray that God raises Apostles in Jerusalem and that there be as many Apostles as possible in Israel. Amen!

He also spoke and disputed against the Hellenists; but they attempted to kill him. The brethren, having learned of this, brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.  
The brothers hid Paul. May God bless us with the Apostolic preaching, which releases the hatred of darkness.

**Culture of the Apostolic Church**

**But the churches throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.**  
Here we see the condition of the planted Apostolic network. There is a difference between an Apostolic Church and an Apostolic Center. An Apostolic church plants churches. An Apostolic base releases Apostolic networks. It releases Apostolic churches that can plant churches. It has the genetics of multiplication, it has the genetics to give birth to a son that will give birth to a son. Today we need the Apostolic Centers, not just Apostolic Churches.  
But the first thing we need is the genetics of Apostles. We need the revelation of God about Apostolic dimension. The culture in which Apostles and prophets are built is very important. It is like the soil, in which the Apostolic Church is growing. If the soil is bad, even very good seeds - good revelations and sermons - will neither grow nor bear fruit. The soil is the culture of the church.  
What is the culture of worship to God in your church? How much does it unveil the spirit of a person, how much strength does it bring, how much sacrifice does it have, how much of the revelation of the Radiant Christ does it contain, and how much of the revelation of the power of God in us does it have?  
What is the culture of our relationship? If people in church are distant from each other, if they do not feel like family, it is unlikely that the Apostolic seed will sprong out in such an atmosphere.  
Imagine - self-serving, rude relationship, without the tenderness of Christ,- this is like a bad, stony ground. We must cultivate a good soil in which Apostolic seeds can sprout. We create it through the revelation of God's Word. We cannot take rude people who do not work on themselves, live an unholy lifestyle, and say that good revelations will sprout in them. How will they sprout? Bring a most beautiful palm tree here and plant it in a small pot - it will die tomorrow morning, it will not have enough soil to grow properly.  
Likewise in church, in order for the Apostles to grow, we need the right atmosphere. We need a lot of soil, good soil with all the minerals and vitamins. Create an atmosphere for the growth of the Apostolic Dimension so that the Spirit of Christ may be in our churches! A zealous, earnest life in the spirit! The living worship! The focus is not on structure, but on life! Fight for the testimony of life! Life has signs. And these signs must be visible!

**In Joppa there was a disciple, named Tabitha, which means "dorcas". She was filled with good works and performed many charities. It happened in those days that she fell ill and died. And when they had washed her body they laid it in the upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was near, sent two people to him to urge him to come to them. Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they brought him into the upper room, and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and robes that Dorcas used to make while living with them.  
Peter sent everyone out and, kneeling, prayed, and, turning to the body, said: “Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes and, seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up, and calling in the saints and widows, he presented her alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. So it was that he spent many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.**Apostolic miracles of resurrection! Let us pray for the gift of miracle working in our church.  
A brother came to our church, I have already spoken about him above, in his ministry there are 500 resurrections from the dead. I asked him: "How do you pray for the resurrection?" He said: "I pray from two hours to two days." How can you be praying for a dead body for two days?! For a dead man who is turning black before your eyes? And he is not in the refrigerator, but on the bed! And if it’s happening in Mexico, in the heat, it turns black very quickly. How can you pray for two days for a corpse? - Love, faith, and the Word of the Lord.  
The brother said that when the Holy Spirit says to them, “I will not let go, cease”, they stop praying for the resurrection, even if all their senses are saying the man is just about to rise again. But if the Holy Spirit does not say stop, they continue to pray until either the Holy Spirit stops or the person is resurrected. They grip him with a death grip like bull terriers!  
One brother said to me: "I prayed for the resurrection, but, apparently, it was not the will of the Lord." I asked him: “How long did you pray?” “What do you mean, how long? I prayed all right. “Did you pray for two hours? Then maybe this was not enough? ”  
I know people who raise the dead, or they saw people who raised the dead, and they sometimes prayed for six hours.  
See what a high bar! It stands above our understanding. There are reasons why we do not see miracles.

In my life there was one resurrection of the dead, it was instantaneous - a few seconds, and the man rose up. When this happened, I was not myself - as if the gift of miracle working had come to you, the gift of faith and you, going insane, rush down headlong into this black hole. In absolute trust. Just because there is no other choice. This is the way to pray for the resurrection of the dead! In the fury of faith, enter where you haven’t gone before. You can ask, but you can also act. There must be the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
And I ask that we pray for the release of spiritual gifts, especially the gift of miracle working. Let's take this prayer. Lord, give us the gift of miracle working in the Name of Jesus Christ!

**Peter sent everyone out and, kneeling, prayed, and, turning to the body, said: “Tabitha! Arise!" And she opened her eyes and, seeing Peter, sat up.**  
So first you need a corpse. In some countries this kind of practice is forbidden - you cannot come to the morgue and say: “Please leave me alone with the body, I will pray now”. You will be arrested. But when a person dies in your sight, and while the emergency hasn’t arrived, you can pray.  
What did Peter do when he came to the upper room where Tabitha lay? Look, here is a technique discribed that we can see. Peter sent everyone out - why? Because they were unbelievers. If there were James, John, they would have stayed with him. He needed believing people!  
Then he knelt. Why should the Apostle kneel? He is an Apostle, Jesus hears him. But he did like Jesus! He knelt and prayed at the body. What did Peter pray for? He prayed that the Lord would anoint him and work a miracle. Peter prayed: “Lord, bless me!” Through this prayer he received an empowerment of grace from his God! And when he rose up from the prayer, he said: “Tabitha! Arise!" She opened her eyes and, seeing Peter, sat down. He gave her his hand, helped her up, and calling in the saints and widows, presented her in front of them alive.   
Brothers and sisters, here's the technique, how to raise the dead! We need to move to the practice of resurrection of the dead!  
And what was the result: when Tabitha had been raised alive, it became known throughout Joppa. There was no need to do advertising, spend money on ads – it became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Miracles release salvation and growth of the Kingdom. Glory to Jesus!

**Book of Acts of the Apostles.**

**Chapter 10**

**"Footprints of God" in the nations**

**There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household.**  
Cornelius was a centurion — an officer appointed over a hundred warrior soldiers who live an especially “rough” life, the life of warriors. Being on crusades they do not see their families for a long time, they are aggressive and covert for profit. Only at a certain historical moment in time, with one commander, they began to give lands and pay salaries to officers who waged wars. But at first, they were deprived, literally, of everything. That is, those people were quite embittered and cruel. And so, Cornelius was in charge over such a hundred of Roman soldiers.  
But what is surprising: this centurion, an officer of a fairly good level, was devout. Very interesting. Today we must realize that a person even from a very "cruel" structure can be a righteous one. When we look at those who serve on submarines, ships, and airplanes, we can see “brothers” of Cornelius in them.  
We need to pray for these structures, knowing that even in the cruel Roman army, the army that crucified Christ, there was a soldier who exclaimed at Calvary: “Truely, this is the Son of God!” And also this centurion Cornelius was devout. There, in Israel, the Holy Spirit is present! And there, in Caesarea, the Holy Spirit was present, the Lord was working with these people.  
Cornelius had five qualities. First - he was "devout." Second - "he who fears God." Third - his house was "God-fearing." Fourth - "he did mercy." And the fifth - "he always prayed to God!" It was an officer of the Roman army, a servant of Caesar! I think he was a secret disciple, because in the Roman Empire everyone had to believe in Caesar. Caesar was god to them. And even Christians were identified like this: everyone had to throw up incense and proclaim: "Caesar is my Lord." But Christians did not do this, and they were taken away, thrown to beasts, tortured and killed.  
In every nation there are Corneliuses. And we must be able to find traces of God in the nations. You may ask: “Why do I need this? I am not a missionary and am not going to go anywhere!” But if you are in the missionary church, you should know about the mission not less than the missionary who goes. You say: "I am not an Apostle, why do I need the teachings of the Apostles?!" If you are in the Apostolic Church, you must know all about the Apostles and the Apostolic Dimension. Therefore, we must pray that God will grant all of us to see His footprints in the nations.

**About the ninth hour of the day, he saw clearly in the vision an Angel of God, who came in and said to him: “Cornelius!” And when he observed him, he was afraid and said: “Here I am, Lord!”**Supernatural signs from the Lord in the Gentile nations. I heard many testimonies of Muslims. After one such testimony a documentary film was shot where a former Muslim tells how the Lord appeared to him in Mecca when he was sleeping. Jesus came to him at night and said, “I am Isa,” and began to reveal to him that He was the true Lord. And also Christ gave him a command: “Collect your things and leave here immediately!” He went off and tried to sleep in the car, but it didn’t work. Then in the morning he told his friends that he had seen Isa, they didn’t understand anything, and he went to his village. When he had arrived home, I gathered relatives, and, not knowing anything about Christ or the Bible, he told them about his dream.  
  
Imagine what a short testimony he has! Couldn’t be shorter. But crowds of people came to listen to him. People came and listened to how Isa had appeared in Mecca.  
The Lord appears also to Buddhists. I myself was connected to a man who once influenced my destiny. His name was Aaron. He was a Jew of the Jews and lived in America. At one time he was in Vietnam during the war. Once the building where he stayed was bombed. Everything was shaking, exploding. He hid under the bed and prayed: “Lord! If only I could get to the airport to get out of this country.” The Lord said to him: “You will arrive at the airport now, go to America, take your wife, and you will come together and serve here. At war". And during the Vietnam War, he saved several people who later became his disciples.

Once, at one of the meetings, he was listening to the sermon of one of his disciples, who used to be a soldier, was seriously wounded, but became a minister, and he was enjoying the anointing, in which he moved. And suddenly Aaron heard a voice: “You will go to Tibet, because I am sending you to Lhasa”.  
Aaron found Tibet on the map, went there and there he heard a voice saying he should come back and make a red book with golden letters: “The Gospel of John”. Two years later, he undertook a return to Tibet, and, having grown a beard, he hid this little book in the player. When he was in one monastery, the Holy Spirit said to him:"Come over to that monk." He approached one old monk, gave him the Gospel, and the monk wept and said: “Two years ago I saw you in a vision. When I prayed to God that He would reveal Himself to me, God showed me a vision: I saw a man with a white beard, and a voice said: “This man will come and give you a red book with golden letters in which you will find salvation for the eternal life." And you are that man.  
When I heard this story from his mouth, I was stunned, because we had secretly been praying for Tibet. And here before me was a man from there. Aaron. I approached him after the service and said: “You have no idea, brother, how much what you said means to us. I dream to come to Tibet. ” He said, "I want to pray for you." After the prayer he promised: “I will send you Tibetan Gospels. And when you get them, move. "  
Oh, how I waited for those Tibetan Gospels! And when, finally, the parcel arrived with these little books, I don’t even know what it was — the Gospel of John, Mark, or Luke — I received them as precious diamonds. I put them under my pillow so that the Lord would give me dreams about Tibet. I trusted that every person who took this Gospel should be saved! And then we felt that the right time had come to move, and the brothers blessed me, I set off.  
Before that I received two dreams. In the first dream the way there was closed, I was thrown back all the time, because I had to prepare my boots. And then the Lord showed me the border where the check point to Tibet was, that is, through it one could break in there. Later on, I undertook a journey to Tibet with one brother, and saw this place in reality! The Chinese wouldn’t let us pass for a long time, but I said: “They will let us in. I have already seen this place in a dream.”We were kept at the border for several hours, and eventually they let us in! The Lord opened up Tibet to us!  
At another time of this journey the Gospels were hidden in my baggage with a double bottom. Under the guidence of the Holy Spirit in fasting (I immediately began to fast), I distributed them to monks, pilgrims, or people whom the Lord would lead me to. I saw hunger and thirst in some of them, the Word of God touched those people. On that trip God gave me to reach the most high-altitude settlement - where the ascent to Everest already begins.  
We were moving to the top of the world, spreading the Gospel in different villages where there is not even electricity. I drove through Gyandze, Shigatse, to the Nepalese border. And in every place, where we made stops, day and night I spread the Gospels. Jesus is Lord!  
God appears to shamanists. I know one former shaman who used to see demons in people, he saw that when people quarrelled, demons would sit on them and whisper in their ears.  
One day he resurrected a girl. I spoke with him personally at one of the partnerships on reaching shamanistic nations. That time he came in, said hello, then said that he would not be able to stay for a long time and walked out, and I ran out to him and said: “You have raised the dead!” He says: “Yes!” I said: “Tell me about it right here in the hallway.” He said: “Once I was brought a black, ossified corpse. It was a stiff corpse of a girl, like meat from a freezer. She accidentally fell from my hands on the floor... There was a rattle... It was a corpse, a frozen corpse. ” He began to pray, cry out, shout out, cry. And God gave resurrection to the girl. She rose up! This brother is a former shaman raising the dead!  
God comes to the Islamists, He comes to the Buddhists, He comes to the shamanists, He comes to the Judaists, Hindus and atheists! He comes to the Italian centurions!  
When our church began in Vladivostok, I met an Israeli man. He was God's anointed one. I couldn’t even define whether he was human – so anointed he was. Once I came to his home, and he told me how the Israelis in Israel were preparing for the coming of the Messiah. How they had prepared the priesthood robes, how with the help of technologies they were trying to find a place, where the first sacrifice should be offered, and so on. And he also shared how Jesus comes supernaturally to the Jews in Israel when they pray to Jehovah. They pray, cry out, and Jesus appears to them during those prayers! A huge amount of testimonies every day! Because He said: "I will come Myself to My own." The Lord also comes to Muslims. A brother came to us and told that there was a meeting of two hundred people in Iran who gathered together with one distinguishing sign: Jesus appeared to each of them personally. Glory to Him!  
God is moving today! If we have something “frozen”, it does not mean that God has stopped. This means that we must wake up. Jesus pass by the barren fig tree, He went on. We do not want to be the kind of church that Jesus passes by. We want to say with all the leaves and fruits: “Take, eat!” We do not want Jesus to pass by!  
One of my favorite stories is how Jesus appeared to Sundar Singh. This Hindu young man could not find peace in his soul. Sundar locked up in his room and prayed to the "universal spirit" that he would reveal the truth to him. A few days later he woke up at night and decided to commit suicide by throwing himself under a train that passed through his village. But suddenly his room was filled with such a bright light that he was frightened, and when he opened his eyes to see the source of the light, he saw Jesus in front of him. Instantly his spirit was filled with peace, incomparable to anything he had ever experienced. Jesus came to him, and he received Christ. His family tried to poison him, put rat poison into his food.  
He had to wander in the jungles, eat leaves from the trees, and they would transform into the paradise fruit in his mouth. One day he visited Europe and did not want to return there again, saying: “I thought Europe was Christian, but I see that you love God less than our India loves idols”. This was the conclusion of Sundar Singh. He became an Apostle of India and died in the missionary journey, moving through Tibet.  
Today we need to pray for the supernatural appearance to the Gentiles! Let us pray for Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Judaists and atheists, let us pray for Corniliuses!  
One brother organized a prayer mountain in Jerusalem, where for over twenty years a 24-hour prayer has been going on. Volunteers come there and pray for six hours every day. It is not an easy job to hold prayer for two hours, and then, after a break, again for two hours, day and night. There served one brother who came there for a whole year. A captive of the prayer mountain! This is very serious! You will change if you stay there for at least three months. And a volunteer is not a traveler who wants to see Israel, he is a sacrificing person who goes there for his own finances to do the work of prayer. Praise Jesus!  
There are twelve gates in this prayer tower, which symbolize the twelve directions of the world. And there are gates that belong to Russia. I was delighted that there is prayer happening not only for Israel, but for all nations. Because they are moving in the spirit of Pentecost, with the faith that the Gospel will become known to the ends of the earth (Acts 1: 8). The founder of the ministry for many years has been standing on the revelation that God gave him from the book of Isaiah:  
In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt, and the Egyptianinto Assyria; and the Egyptians, together with the Assyrians, will serve the Lord. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria - a blessing in the midst of the land whom the Lord of Hosts will bless, saying: "Blessed is Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."  
Imagine, what a revelation! God will adopt Egypt and adopt Arabs! Because Assur is Arabs. The brother is standing on this Word, and in his prayer tower he has been bringing Arabs and Jews together for over twenty years now, and God is anointing him abundantly. He himself is already an elderly person, a non- Israeli, - an American, - but he stands on the revelation that Arabs and Egyptians will be adopted, and Israel will be one with them. Hallelujah! This is power! This is what God is doing in the nations! We started with the story of Cornelius, and went in so far. Praise our Lord!

**Divine connections**

**... send men to Joppa and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter: he is staying with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea; he will tell you the words by which you and your whole house will be saved.**So the Divine connection has happened. Peter opened himself for the Lord and became the door through which people sent by God were to enter. And here we are not distributors of grace, we are doors - open or closed. And we must become open doors! If we can connect somebody, we must connect. If God wants to send a river through us or connect rivers through us, we must let Him do it. We see that when Peter opened up his spirit and became an open door, God immediately sent people from Cornelius to him: He saw that Peter would cope with this task, he would be able to eat an unclean animal. And we need to learn this divine grace — be an open door. Amen!  
Recently, during a trip to Europe, my brothers and I visited Barcelona. And what makes me happy is that there is a church that once became a door for us. This is a small Spanish church, whose pastor is a true Spanish, a watchman of the city.  
When I first came to this church, there were a number of things that I didn’t like. But the matter is that this pastor accepted us. He turned out to be a spiritual person. Whenever I come to Barcelona, ​​I go to see this Spanish anointed one. He has a small, maybe not very influential church. They had to sell part of the church building due to the difficult economic situation. But I appreciate and honor the blessing that God gave us through him.  
Once I visited him, and while we were in fellowship with him and his wife, he began sharing that God is now testing churches in all the nations. He said that a wave of betrayals was rising that the Lord allowed against the church, and that they themselves had traitors, and because of them a split happened in the church. This pastor began to release that in many countries this black wave was rising, which was dividing churches. And he shared his understanding that God was shaking churches, cleansing them, that all this was allowed by Him ...  
I listened to him with great attention and rejoiced. I said, “This is what we will do now, dear brother. Now you will pray for me with the laying on of hands and prophesy, and then I will pray for you and prophesy. ” He said: “Good!” And he grabbed my hands so tight that after the prayer his fingers had to be unbent, as they were numb. He prayed and prophesied, and I received the empowerment. And then I began to release for him, and thus our connection happened.  
We met with him at our level. Because he is the anointed one of Spain. He is the Spanish watchman in Barcelona. I come to the country and go to the prince of God. It doesn't matter to me what kind of conflicts and domestic wars happened “in the kitchen”. I rise above it and go to him. And he understands that a man of God has come to him. I left him a blessing and left. Because we are friends, joined forever! These are eternal ties!  
What are we talking about now? - About the Apostolic Dimension, which is above private wars! If we are an Apostolic church, we must have a high spirit. And the connection in the Body of Christ, the unity of the Body of Christ is the highest priority in the Kingdom of God! No matter where we are, whatever nation or country, we must keep the spirit of unity and bring peace, because it is written: “Blessed are the peacemakers”.

**Obedience to revelation**

**The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter, about the sixth hour, went up on the housetop to pray. And he became very hungry and wanted to eat, but while they made ready, he fell into a trance. And he saw heaven opened and anobject like a great sheet tied at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things and birds of the air. And a voice came to him: "Rise, Peter, kill and eat."**  
So Peter felt the hunger and went into a trance. He entered into suffering. Sometimes, before a breakthrough, something hard to understand occurs.  
When the Lord wants to do something through us, and we are not obedient and are hardened, then we need a shaking. Something like this may have happened to Peter. The Lord sent hunger to Peter, and it was not carnal hunger, it was a hunger in the spirit. Peter went into a trance, saw an open heaven and a sheet descending, full of food. What was in there? - All four-footed animals of the earth, beasts, reptiles and birds of the air. “These creeping things,” the Lord told him, “kill and eat.” What an inconvenient revelation about the nations!  
I remember several years ago our church had revelations come about an impending tsunami. We did not understand them. And then we read on the news that tsunami had hit here and there. Not long ago I re-read those revelations - then I received them written in paper - and I realized that at that time we had simply missed the revelations of the Holy Spirit. God was warning us, but we did not respond.  
Surely, some of you received revelations that you did not understand. Some of you received revelations about the nations. Do not lose them! Write them down, put the date and pray through them. Because the Lord speaks to us not so that we simply rejoice. If we are serious about what God speaks to us, He will seriously ask.  
About the vision given to Peter, it is written: "This happened three times." I thank the Lord for His long-patience! Because when Peter did not obey the first time, there was the second time, and when Peter said “no” the second time, there was the third. I thank the Lord that He continues to speak to us when we do not obey. And I plead with Him: “Keep speaking to us the fourth, fifth, tenth time! If I still don't understand some things, Lord, repeat it to me! ”  
I want to ask God for forgiveness together with you, if we have neglected His revelation, and ask the Lord to come again and raise the revelation of the Holy Spirit within us so that it starts working. This is very serious.

**Preaching Good News by "killing"**

**But Peter said: "Not at all, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common (unholy) and unclean."**  
Peter saw nations as unclean animals, not because God sees them so, but because he considered the nations like this. God did not see the nations unclean. Do you know why? Because He said: “What God has cleansed, do not you consider it unclean.” Peter, in his Jewish pride with his distorted look, saw those people as reptiles, creeping creatures and birds. Not because God is such, but because Peter saw it that way. And God says to him: “Kill!” Evangelism by killing. Kill for God and eat!  
Remember when an Angel of the Lord came to Paul on the ship and said: "I give all of them to you." In other words, “I grant them to you, these are your people. Kill and eat! These are your sons and daughters, your glory, your sacrifice.” But Peter said: “No, Lord!” Never say «no» to the Lord! One should say to the Lord: “Yes, Lord!”

God sends us into nations where there are already cleansed people. I once ministered in Cambodia, where my brothers and I went to the jungle. We crossed the river, did it by the rope ferry, rented a motorcycle, then walked for a long time through the red clay under heavy rain, the translator was already mad, he did not like all of it. I was walking and thinking: if darkness now thickens, we will be either eaten by mosquitoes or attacked by Cambodian snakes. We had to reach the place soon.  
I prayed: “Lord! What should we do: go back or still go ahead? "And I look - a bird flew in:" Plim-Plim, Tyuguduk-Tyugudyuk "... And I went after the bird ... You can laugh, but when it comes to survival, a bird will seem a heavenly Angel. An Angel in the form of a bird named Victor came to Patrick of Ireland. You can see God's hand where you didn't see it before.  
We moved on and came to a small village in the jungle, found a grandmother there who was chewing drugs: she had some grass lump in her cheek, as if a huge flux, it was a plant that stimulates your mood. But despite this, she was not unclean.

Later we will pull out all these “rootlets” out of her; most important was that in the spirit she was clean, because God had cleansed her. Do you understand? Someone will stumble over these rootlets and will not go through, while someone looks into the spirit and says: “You are my sister, my bride!”  
We baptized this grandmother, healed two people in her house and left. I came there another time, and there was already a church, and a banner was hanging: “God loves you.” In only one visitation such a miracle happened! How is this possible? Only through a breakthrough in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Jesus is Lord!  
Meanwhile, as Peter was meditating about the vision, the Spirit said to him: “Behold, three men are looking for you. Arise, come down and go with them without hesitating or doubting, for I have sent them Myself. "  
I want to tell you: meditate on revelations, meditate on dreams, visions, signs of circumstances. Take out your notebooks, remember what God spoke to you about nations, about ministry, fast about it. Then God will come to meet you and confirm that it is Him. If you believe, you will see.

**On the following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius waited for them, having called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter arrived, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up, I too am only a man." And talking to him, he entered the house and found a large group of people assembled.**

God is already preparing those who are ready to receive the Word of Life, and we are messengers from heaven for them. From the very beginning we need to learn to give all the glory to God. Peter raised Cornelius up. He immediately responded: “You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with or befriend a Gentile, or to visit him, but God has revealed that I am not to call anyone unholy or unclean.”  
This is the intersection of age-old traditions. Freedom from church stereotypes. In the heart of Peter the new law of God was sounding, received through revelation: “do not call anyone unholy or unclean!”  
Brothers, sisters, not a single one! You may say: “But how about these worthless people? But what about fornicators, but what about, for example, modern sex minorities?  
Here it is written very plainly: YOU do not call! “God has revealed it to me that I am not to call ANYONE unholy or unclean,” this revelation helped Peter to break through Judaic traditions and baptize the household of Cornelius. He had to overcome a lot of stereotypes! He was the pastor of the Jerusalem church. The brothers objected him baptizing the Gentiles. And not only him baptizing, but even eating with them! And Peter had to cross the age-old traditions. Why exactly him? Because he had the revelation: "Do not call a single person unclean."  
Today we are talking about the nations, about the Apostolic Mission. Peter opened his mouth and said: "Most certainly I understand now that God is not one to show partiality," and we must take this revelation for ourselves.  
I will not read Peter's sermon in the house of Cornelius, but this sermon was Apostolic. He spoke “that God with the Holy Spirit and with power anointed Jesus of Nazareth, and He went around doing good and healing all that were possessed by the devil, because God was with Him.”  
Preach the power of Jesus, the election of His own people from the nations, that God, by His Holy Spirit, chooses nations for salvation!

**Apostolic determination**

**While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them.**  
The falling of the Spirit while preaching. We had this happen when, during a sermon, people would start speaking in tongues and magnifying God. I remember once I was preaching the Word, and in the middle of it a woman suddenly stood up and started speaking in tongues while she was preaching. I didn’t know what it was, I thought maybe demons ... I didn’t respond and continued preaching. And she stood up, released her speech in tongues and sat down. After the meeting, she approached me and said:  
- Brother, what happened to me?  
- What happened to you?  
- I spoke in inexplicable tongs.  
And I opened this Scripture to her: about the falling of the Spirit during Peter's preaching.  
  
I remember another case. I once ministered in a Korean church. I haven't yet spoken anything, but the old ladies have already made themselves comfortable and prepared to sleep. It turned out that after the service they were given a loaf of hot bread, and if they were “lucky,” they could have been given two. Therefore, from the very beginning of the service they were waiting for the sermon to end. Then I said, “No, that won't do! Let us talk now about being born again.” I put aside my notes, because I realized that only unborn people behave this way. How will a born-again person treat the Word like that? And I began to talk about being born again. Later on I heard a testimony of how the Lord began to baptize people with the Holy Spirit there, even in prayer for food: when they came home empowered with this grace and began to pray for food, the Holy Spirit fell upon some of them, and they began to speak in new tongs, although I did not preach about them.

Now, the same was with Peter then, because the Apostle's anointing was released, and the power of the Holy Spirit moved. We shold not be chasing "chills" today. We must insist on the truth of God and expect miracles from the Lord! Expect, expect, expect and believe!

**Then Peter said: «Can anyone forbid water that these sholud not be baptized to those who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized ... Then they asked him to stay a few days.**  
Peter decided to baptize! I want to ask courage for the church to baptize in the nations. Wherever you go, believe that God is with you, and go and baptize! You are going into the nations to baptize! Disciple the nations and baptize them! Release the Word of the anointing of Jesus! Do not philosophize, do not put psychology forward - we must preach that Jesus is the only way to salvation! Boldly and daringly say this, and baptize those who believe! This is what the Apostles did!  
Today they say: “How come we baptize? What if they fall away? ”Demons probably asked Peter these questions too. And how did the Apostles baptize three thousand people on the first day? The confession only would have taken four days! Why did five thousand come at one time? Because it was the Apostolic grace! They clearly saw that those people were born again. They put faith in them, baptized them, and trusted them to the grace of God.  
We do need Apostolic determination! We need to be cleansed, to come to the Apostolic Dimension of Faith, so that the church may shake off this dust of itself! How do we then believe? We need to clense our faith! We again need to shake off the chains and believe like children.  
I remember as soon as I believed, they gave me a brochure named “Four Spiritual Laws”: the first engine — faith, followed by a train car — obedience, then something else, so I had to study these laws in order not to speak directly about God, but through these four laws. Imagine how it would look: “Hello, would you like to know the four spiritual laws? Of course, I will not be speaking to you about Jesus, do not be alarmed, but the four spiritual laws will instruct you and somehow lead to Jesus. ”  
Do you understand? How much more of things like that can be in us? We need to be cleansed, we need to come into the Apostolic dimension of faith! To preach that Jesus is the only way of salvation, that He is the Anointed One, and baptize people in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
To preach Jesus pure! To preach that Jesus is the only way of salvation, that He is the Anointed One, and to baptize people is what the modern church needs! Russia needs an awakening! And, as Lester Sumrall said, once the borders in Russia will be closed, and people will no longer be chasing miracles.  
Do not chase miracles, preach mouth to mouth. And when key people get saved, an awakening will begin. Lester also prophesied that when the borders opened again, the missionaries from Russia would go all over the world to preach the Gospel of the nature and purity that had been formed during the time of closed borders. The prophet said that Russia would accomplish this work on its own, without any help, without a single dollar from abroad.  
If the borders in our country are closing, this is for the purpose of us cleansing the Gospel. We sing our own songs, we pray from our hearts, we draw the Word and revelations directly from the Bible, and not from theological books or thick textbooks of others' experiences. Someone writes on the topic of evangelism only because he has doctor’s degree, and has not led a single person to Jesus in his life. There are thousands of such books. But we need to draw directly from the Source itself, the Word of God, straight from the Holy Spirit!

**Book of the Acts of the Apostles.**

**Chapter 11**

**Ascension of the Church through birth pains**

**The Apostles and brethren, who were in Judea, heard that the Gentiles had also received the Word of God. And when Peter came to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, saying: "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"**It is interesting to look at the condition of the church in Jerusalem: Apostle Peter told them that a movement had begun among the Gentiles, that the house of Cornelius had been baptized by the Holy Spirit, but brothers in the church began to contend with Peter. Imagine, I come and say that in some Buddhist nation people began to be saved and baptized by the Spirit. Would you be happy? But here it is written: "contended with him."  
We see that the attitude of the church towards the lost world was still immature. The Apostolic church also experienced transition periods; it did not immediately become perfect. Acts contains several facts that the church needed transformation: for example, it was not established that the Gentiles didn’t have to be circumcised. This was established only after the Apostolic Council, with the presbyters. The Apostolic church continued to be in the process of transition into the fullness of doctrine!  
I will tell you with all the seriousness that we are still in the process. Will anyone say that Ignatius was the last teacher of the fullness of truth? Or Augustine?  
We are in the process today. As it is written in Ephesians 4:11-13: “And He gave some to be Apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,  
and some pastors and teachers, to the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. ”  
The church on earth is making its way into the fullness of knowledge. And if we are moving into the Apostolic dimension, it is important for us to know that we are in the process. So, the Apostolic Church was in the condition of labor pains of gaining the fullness of doctrine. This is why, instead of rejoicing over the salvation of the Gentiles, they contended with Peter.

**Trusting revelation**

**But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: “In the city of Joppa, praying and in a trance I saw a vision: an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners, and itcame to me ... And I heard I am a voice saying to me: "Rise, Peter, kill and eat"... Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven.**

See how purely Peter told everything. Just as Luke described these events in chapter ten! Peter repeated it all word for word!  
We need to learn to testify purely. The purer the testimony is — without exaggeration, embellishment, distortion, without advertising — the purer the presence of God is with us. Therefore, today my prayer and appeal is that we learn to give testimony purely. Work on your testimony, it has tremendous power, find the source of this power. We need to pray that our testimony be sharpened, because it is the sword of the anointing, and this sword must shine! Therefore, work, think, pray, sharpen and testify. The oftener you give your testimony, the more shining the steel becomes!

**So, if God gave them the same gift as He gave us, when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who was I could withstand God?**

The Apostle had a position regarding obedience to the Spirit. How obedient are we to the Holy Spirit? How obedient are we when the Holy Spirit wakes us up to pray in the night? Or is it “higher mathematics” for us, or on the opposite, some passed stage, like the first love that is gone forever? How often can we fast at the prompting of the Spirit, how often do we interrupt our activities in the middle of the day and begin to pray because we feel the prompting of the Spirit? How often do we do things because the Spirit urges us? How open are we to the leadership of the Holy Spirit?  
Today I cry out, I beg you: start praying to become sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be obedient to Him! Promting of the Spirit! The Lord can urge you to do even things that you cannot do.  
I recall one testimony: once a man heard a voice at night: “Go to the forest and preach.” It would seem stupid: to go into the woods at night and preach. But he obeyed, went to the forest, preached - and there, it turned out, was a man hiding behind a tree, he wanted to hang himself, but he heard the preaching - and didn’t do it.

There are so many other amazing testimonies of the importance of being obedient to the Spirit.

**When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying: “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.**  
On the one hand, the brothers accepted the revelation received by Peter and accepted the home church of Cornelius. But, on the other hand, they didn’t accept "unclean Gentiles", even eating with them was not allowed. And this is a contradiction: on the one hand, rejection of the Gentiles, on the other - openness to the Holy Spirit. All this discrepancy was still to be overcome by the Apostolic Church of the Jews. Apostle Peter received a revelation: not a single person was to be considered unclean, but the other Apostles and disciples had to “catch up” with this revelation. And today there are things that we need to "catch up with." If you have heard a revelation, it doesn’t mean that you have embraced it. Even Peter understood the words of Jesus that John baptized with water, and He would baptize with the Holy Spirit - only when this grace was revealed to the Gentiles - the falling of the Holy Spirit upon them. Therefore, eat even sealed scrolls. The time will come, and God will unseal them.

**Overcoming barriers (spirit of men of Cyprus and Cyrene)**

**Meanwhile, those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the Word to no one but the Jews only.**  
That is what we must grow in! Not in persecutions and fears! We must grow in the Word of God, in the glory of God, in the depth of revelation, in the stewardship of the mysteries of God! In this you dig and strengthen! Because it is from here that Satan wants to drag us down to the human things. Therefore, “if anyone speaks, let him speak as the Word of God!”

**Meanwhile, those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus, and Antioch**  
This is interesting: they went to the ends of the earth, but preached only in synagogues. A strange phenomenon. It’s the same as if Koreans went all over the world, but preached only to Koreans, Chinese only to Chinese, Russians only to Russians. Do you understand? We see here a limited revelation about the missions work! We need not only to send disciples into nations, but to make disciples of the nations. Here is an exemption from this restriction.  
I watch the First Church: it is one hundred percent Apostolic, but still struggles for the fulness of revelation. And we are also involved in this fight. We do not have a static revelation that some anointed one received at the beginning of the twentieth century, and we are following only it. No, it is progressive.  
Every revival that took place in the history of the Church revealed a new facet of Jesus Christ: Strong Christ or Christ Shining in mission. Revelation would come, the Church embraced it and awakened. Just as in the second and third chapters of Revelation, Jesus is revealed each time in a new way. And today we are seeking Revival not just as a manifestation of power, but as the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**But some of them were men from Cyprus and the Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.**  
The spirit of men of Cyprus and Cyrene is the spirit of pioneers. They crossed over to what even the Apostles were afraid to do. Even the Apostles, when moving, preached only to the Jews, but these, having come to Antioch, preached to the Hellenists. They walked beyond the common limits! They experienced the breadth and length of the Gospel. And here is what happened as a result:  
**And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.**You see, God honored with favor, so to speak, the boldness with which they went beyond the limits of the “limited” Gospel.  
The result of the presence of the Lord's hand was such: “And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord!” See, what the hand of the Lord does! Therefore, when we call upon the hand of the Lord to be above us, we must proclaim the salvation of a great number of people. Because the hand of the Lord does not stretch simply for miracles and healings, it is for the salvation of a great number of people! Let us call on the hand of the Lord! Lord, may Your hand be with us, so that a great number believe and turn to You!  
This is our task - not persecution, our task is awakening! And we will pray for revival, ignoring the persecutions! Persecutions come - do not deal with them, but continue to move into the important. And be patient, just go through it! We must not deviate! We continue to praise, insist on the prophetic worship, continue to evangelize, continue to pray for revival! Glory to Jesus!

**The nature of the minister - “do not harm”**

**The news of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.**  
The Apostles learn that a great number of Gentiles are being saved in Antioch, they have not yet gone through this and send there a deacon, Barnabas. It means, deacons in the Apostolic Church were able to fulfill such important matters. Suppose we now have a movement of thousands of people somewhere in Japan, but the Lord does not tell me to go there, and we send one of our deacons there, and the sent one puts everything in its place.  
Think, what kind of deacons there were in the Apostolic Church, since they were sent for such important tasks! This is the kind of ministers I want to see today: that a brother can go and do it well! Why? Because he is spiritual! Because he has the Apostolic grace. Deacon Barnabas had the Apostolic grace.

**When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.**  
Barnabas had a law: do no harm. You see grace - do not harm, but reinforce what God is doing. The kind heart that Barnabas had recognized God and reinforced what He was doing. Barnabas did not hurt, but he persuaded to continue with the Lord with a purpose of heart. He didn’t yet know how to bring people to complete obedience to the commandments, how to tell about the depth of the Jewish component in the Scriptures, how to bring the church of the Gentiles and the Church of Israel to the fullness of the Church of Christ.

Barnabas didn’t touch all these things. He said: “Wait ... I have Saul at Tarsus. You continue with the Lord with a purpose of heart, because there is grace here, and I will go to bring Saul. See you the day after tomorrow. ”  
And he went to Tarsus to get Saul, brought him over, and for several years they instructed Antioch, until the teachers and prophets, as it is written, rose up there. We need this ability to recognize and cooperate with the grace of God.

And then, when they fasted and prayed, the Holy Spirit said: “Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul.” And they sent them, and they were already called Apostles. And a great many people were added to the Lord.  
The result of the mature and correct actions in the awakening: “... a great many people added to the Lord.” And today we are talking about a mature decision: to focus our attention not on the persecutions, but on the awakening.

**Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seak Saul and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people, and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**  
The work of distributing gifts in the Body. You see how wise Barnabas and Saul were. The Apostolic church of Gentiles had achieved such personal revelation and knowledge in Christ that it gained by itself this status: "Christians"!  
Think what kind of personal revelation they had received about God! And they dared, regardless of the Jerusalem Church, on the basis of their own revelation, which they had with Saul and Barnabas, to be called Christians. Christians are like little “Christs”. Do you understand? And they began to say they were Christians. What a power - the Apostolic Church in Antioch!

**Engaging with the Body of Christ**

**In those days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named of Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.**  
The connection in the Body of Christ began: the prophets from Jerusalem, from the base church, came to the Gentile church. And they came with a very heavy prophecy. It was not an encouraging Word, neither were those words of flattery or support. They prophesied of the famine that was in the days of Claudius Caesar. Do you understand what level of prophetic ministry was there in the Apostolic Church? It was an accurate announcement of future events and even judgements.  
We read about seven deacons, about twelve Apostles, but we have not read about the prophets yet. But it turns out that there were prophets in the church of Jerusalem! And one of them, named of Agabus, prophesied of famine in the days of Claudius Caesar. So it all happened, the Holy Spirit immediately confirms: “hunger ... which was in the days of Claudius Caesar”. That’s an Apostolic tradition: if you speak of some kind of prophecy, it means you certainly need to say that it has been fulfilled.

**Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.**The correct response of the Apostolic leaders to the prophecy. Imagine, a prophet now comes and says: “Immediately after the election of the new president, you will have famine”. And the maturity of the church will immediately manifest: some will go shopping, some will save for the bank account, others will invest into real estate... A movement called “Save Your Life” will begin. But look at how they responded:

**Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.**  
Do you understand? Famine is coming, and they are gathering finances to send to Judea, to the Apostolic Church. Why did they do that? So that the Apostles could have extra, and they lacked? No! Because there, in the Apostlic Church, the correct distribution of the collected funds is happening! What kind of spirit was there in this newborn church, that only a year after their conversion they could make such serious, mature decisions?!  
They sent donations to whom? To the elders! It says here, "Sent the relief to the elders by hands of Barnabas and Saul." This is very important. This is the order of God! So, donations were sent to the presbyters through the ministers, future Apostles, Barnabas, and Saul. And they, taking the donations of the Church of Antioch - it was a large sum - carried them to the presbyters of the Jerusalem church. You see the kind of development: first, there were Apostles and deacons in the Church of Jerusalem, and now we meet presbyters and prophets. Thus, we see that in the Church of Jerusalem there were Apostles, Presbyters, Deacons, and Prophets. Glory to our Lord!

**Acts of Apostles**

**Chapter 12**

**Conflict with the world system**

**Now about that time, Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some of the church.**  
Up to that time Herod had not yet stretched his hand at those belonging to the church: this was done by religious people, Pharisees and the like. The king was engaged in his political activities, he led internal and external politics. Everything related to religion, Judaism, was related to domestic politics. The external politics involved development of relations with the Roman Empire, of which they were a colony, establishment of trade with other colonized countries, and so on: everything, as it had always been since the days of Cain. But suddenly the time came when the king decided to stretch his hand at some belonging to the church...  
I want to declare: any state government that ever persecuted the Church of Christ underwent major changes, and signs of a curse came to such countries. I personally know the bishops who were in the prisons of the Soviet Union for the Word of God, some of them have already passed away. Later on, when the USSR collapsed, they opened the archives and began to rehabilitate those people, and began to distribute awards to our brothers-ministers, posthumously to many. One of the bishops, I personally knew him, went to prison for the Word of God for about eighteen years, and then he was made an honorary citizen of a city in the West of Russia, the whole city knew him!  
This is our brethren – the one that has gone through persecutions in the USSR! And now all the same is happening! Now we, the direct sons of this brethren, are called sectarians! How can this be so: after the Soviet Union fell, they were rehabilitated, and now they are honorary citizens, and their sons who stand in the same doctrine, with the same statute, are being persecuted? How is this possible? I hope this is local arbitrariness, illiteracy and poor qualities of local leaders.  
So Herod decided to stretch out his hands at several of the church. The king found a thing to engage with: do evil to Christians! What for? Have you killed anyone today, robbed anyone, stole from anyone, pursuing someone? Man of God will never persecute anyone! And such people Herod decided to stretch out his hand at.

**Then he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword ...**"He killed with the sword..." - this is very violent, he could have done it differently. He stretched out his hands at some — not at everyone, because you have to be worthy yet to suffer for the Name of Christ.

**And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.**The Days of Unleavened Bread are a time of religious activity. I would even say, the anticipation of awakening, which began soon. And there are several signs of awakening. The first is the cleansing of the church; the second is the activation of prayer life; the third is the thirst for the Word of God; and fourth is preaching theGood News. All of these are the signs of a living church.  
During those Days of the Unleavened Bread, the king seized Peter, put him in prison, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Passover is a great religious holiday, and he did not want to spoil everyone's mood, he decided to bring Peter out later. And sixteen special troups soldiers, armed to their teeth, are guarding Peter, a fisherman. There, apparently, is "terrorist number one" in the whole world, a particularly dangerous criminal, if sixteen soldiers are guarding him!  
  
**Peter was kept in prison; but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.**

The responce of the First Church is diligent prayer. And we must have the same kind of responce! Not fear! What happens when persecutions come? Fearful people are immediately leaving, because they reason: “Why would I need this? If I get to heaven, that would be enough. I don't love the church. There are good people here, but to give out my soul - no, I will not do it. ”  
Perhaps, non-born again people think so. To some extent, the church may even decrease, and this is the first thing that happens - a decrease. The second is cleansing. The church is being purified, it is gaining a different nature. And only then comes the growth of the purified church, which begins to move in a new nature.  
This happened to the Chinese church - after the persecutions it began to multiply. Study the revival in African countries, in Southeast Asia, in Russia in time of the communist apocalypse - churches there were multiplying enormously!

I knew one bishop from the Moscow brothers, and he told me how the church was working during the times of persecution: even if a person accepted Christ, he had to go through the pastor, who acted in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and defined whether he had really repented or he was a spy. Because people from the services even "spoke" in tongs. They came to the meetings, “spoke” in other tongs, as if they were believers, and “processed” brothers and sisters.  
The church at the time of persecution had discernment: if the person who was called in for interrogation stayed there for more than an hour, it meant that he had already been trapped by the services. Because what can you be talking about there for a long time? And the interrogation went like this: they would have the person sit down and said: “Behold, you are young, you have your whole life ahead, and they expose the details of his life — we know this and that about you”... It is their element - to follow the traces. And through intimidation and blackmail recruitment took place.  
The services would make up a portrait of a person and come to motivation: it can be either material or ideological, or psychological. If they get you hooked with something–that's it, got you: "you work for us" or "we will put you to jail." And the man begins to split in two: he had his faith in God, what to do with it? You know, God leaves such a person. Why didn't Jesus run to take the rope off from Judas? Why didn't He appear to him in a vision and say, “Judas, I forgive you”? Because He left him to himself. That is why the brothers said that one had to decide, wether you are a Judas or a saint. And answer at the interrogation at once: “I’m not Judas Iscariot and I’m not going to be one. I will not cooperate with you.” And that's it.  
As long as there is Light, we will walk in the light and preach the Gospel. Therefore, let us turn fears into prayers! Pressure - into the joy of God, into praises of the Lord! What to do if a wave of persecution has come agains the church? - What do we read in the Bible? Jesus was crucified! All the Apostles were murdered! The Church of Christ is a persecuted one by its nature. Brothers, sisters stayed in prisons, they drove needles inside their nails, they were tortured with hot iron, executed. Voronaev was executed, and his wife spent 28 years in prisons. And only many years later, when her son personally asked Khrushchev, this 70 year-old grandmother was let go out of the country. She barely made it to America, she experienced several murder attempts. There are millions of such stories. In our country there are thousands, thousands and thousands of confessors, martyrs and prisoners. Some of them are still alive. We can still see them with our own eyes.  
Maybe God is raising a wave of trials for us today - we do not know, I will not speak without proof - we don’t know what will happen to us. We'll see. Let us pray, watch and preach. Our business is not to sit and hide. Our business is to strengthen and begin to act. And if, indeed, persecutions come, then we will have to go through a test whether we will stand through or not. People threaten our church, they say they will destroy us within two months. How can we be destroyed? Take away the meeting place - well, this is not surprising. But to destroy - how? Only to kill. How can you destroy the living faith? How can you destroy the Lord? And why destroy us? - We believe in our Lord! What do we preach here except the Lord and His Word? Lord Merciful, glory be to You!  
Therefore, let us examine ourselves, whether we are in faith. What are we willing to give up for Christ? Are we ready to pay the price for Him? Are we ready to lay down our lives? And the good shepherd, as it is written, "lays down his life for his sheep." But a hireling "flees because he sees the wolf coming."

**Doctrine of Christ, which will stand through in any conditions**

Look at how it is written about Jesus: “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do you care about anyone, for you do not regard the person of men.”  
Here are four characteristics that Pharisees gave to Jesus, and they said the truth. The first one is “true”; the second - “you do not care about anyone.”  
Can you say so about yourself that you do not care about pleasing anyone? This is the way Jesus is! That is why I speak straight. Someone may say, “Brother, you've got to watch when you preach!” - No, in this time this is exactly the way to preach! And we will preach this way here! Because if this pulpit gets rotten, then what hope will the world have? If the pulpit is “rotten,” “sour,” if the truth ceases to sound here, where then will it appear? The stronger the persecution, the more direct the preaching is. I feel the Spirit of God drawing and leading into it.  
“And you do not look at any face” - this is what I want, Lord, teach me! Not to look at any face! Not to look at any face! Not to look at ANY FACE! And then: "... but you teach the way of God in truth." This is true. Jesus says: “for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem». All the prophets were killed in Jerusalem! Jerusalem is the city of the prophets' blood. Christ Himself, the apogee of glory, the Prophet of the prophets, was crucified on the cross.  
The true Church must overcome at any time. True teaching persists at all times. Western teachings of prosperity are being tested. Imagine: you are moving into prosperity, your business is growing, the teaching - “How to become a rich Christian” –is working. And suddenly they start to persecute the church, which you are a member of. They arrest the pastor, slander is being poured out. Are you ready to go into bonds together with the persecuted? The teaching, if it is true, must persist in all conditions! If this teaching is only for certain circumstances, it is not the teaching of Christ. Gold is gold everywhere, even in the darkness, and, excuse me, in manure - gold remains gold in all places.  
We are now in a difficult period in Russia. In today's conditions many things no longer work, and they need to be discarded. What kind of "taking of the mountain of education" can there be in the conditions of persecution, when your child, who believes in the Lord, will not even be allowed to go to school? Or you will not be given a diploma at the institute, if you are a “sectarian”, as they didn't give it to our brothers? What "mountain of education" can there be? Only if you renounce the church, then everything will be fine. Do you understand?  
So we need to plunge into God's Word! What is Jesus saying through the Word? What is He teaching? When we read the second, third chapter of Revelation, we see Jesus the way He is. He says: "If you do not repent, I will come and remove your lampstand"; “You bear the name that you are alive, and behold, you are dead,” and so on. And you think: “Lord, how roughly you are talking to the Angels of the Churches.” But this is Jesus!

**Breakthrough for the saints. The Pass "through the bonds"**

**... Bound with two chains, and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.**  
I like Peter. He is between the squads, chained, abiding in God's shalom! The soldiers are taking looks at him, but Peter is sleeping. He is supposed to be brought before people after Passover, but he is sleeping. Lord, give me a spirit like that of Peter!

**And the guards before the door were keeping the prison.**  
If the church is constrained, but it is praying, - there will be a breakthrough. Even if Peter is discouraged, but the church is praying, - a breakthrough will come. Do you understand? We must always pray for the prisoners! I was at different conferences. Those were global meetings where powerful prophecies sounded, but I wondered: no one remembered the prisoners! But Paul said: "... remember the prisoners». Everyone is talking about wealth, and no one remembers the poor. When the Apostles had nothing to add to what Apostle Paul taught, they said: “All right, Paul, you go ahead, but “do not forget the poor!”  
“Do not forget the poor” - this is our social work, these are our homeless, drug addicts, alcoholics. We do not forget the poor, do you understand? And you can't hide it anywhere. Because half of our church are former drug addicts. Many of our brothers and sisters in the past were part of the criminal world. HIV-infected people have found joy, ex-gangsters give birth to children, ex-harlots get married, alcoholics stop even swearing, unlike those who spy on this job.  
And so, Peter is sleeping between the warriors, because his conscience is calm. Only with a clear conscience can one be sleeping like that. Do you know what kind of conscience Peter had? - Washed in the Blood of Christ! Impurpled, sprinkled with the Blood of Christ! Glory to Jesus! And yet his conscience was in the Holy Spirit! Do you know what that means? This is when the Holy Spirit testifies to you that you are the son of God, and you feel such a joy in your spirit! And even if they say to you: “Aaa, worthless one! How can you say so? I know you! ”- You didn’t know me: you knew my corpse. But you don’t know me, and you will never know me, because I am the Lord's! That is the difference between us.  
Digging in the past is the snake’s lot, he is the one crawling on his belly, stings to the heel and feeds on dust. What is dust? You know that all the waste falls off on the ground — the skin is peeled off, something falls from the head, off the feet — everything is at the bottom, and the serpent feeds on it. First, he bathes in there, second, he feeds on the same stuff and also on his own waste. And what else he does is he bites the heel.  
And we – we strike him in his head all the time! This is written in the third chapter of Genesis! Because we do not eat dust. We eat the heavenly food. We feed on faith, love and the grace of the Holy Spirit. We feed on the Light, the Heavens, we feed on the Word of the Lord! Hallelujah!

**Now behold, an Angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison.**

Angels come to those who are suffering. I praise the Lord that the Angel had come to the prison. I thank the Lord that there are no bonds, no walls for His Angels, they come to strengthen. I believe that every one who suffers for the Lord gets strengthened, if he remains faithful to the end, if he doesn’t allow doubts or concerns grasp his heart and mind.

**And he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying: “Arise quickly!”**

The light is shining in the prison. Chains fall off Peter’s hands.

**Then the Angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me”.**

Look, what a concern of the Angel! He says to Peter: “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals.” Peter girded himself and tied on his sandals, but left his clothes; and the Angel says: “Put on your clothes”. What do you, Angel, have about Peter’s clothes? Let him go, he will be received even this way! But, perhaps, it was cold outside, may be it was drizzling. The Angel says, “Get dressed”, - and is waiting. I don’t know what clothes Peter put on, whether the Angel turned away or not, but he waited till Peter got dressed. It really touches me. I love angelic world and I like to penetrate into the inside of angelic thinking.

**So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the Angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.**

What a love!

**When they were past first and second guard posts they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the Angel departed from him.**

Breaks through past the guards and the iron gates leading into the city. The Angel took Peter into the safe zone, and Peter was to move on his own further on. The Angel comes once and once he disappears, so that it’s us who can act further on. He won’t be walking with us forever, visible for us. Because we will get relaxed, we will get spoiled, if Angels do our work for us. We must complete our way ourselves.

**And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His Angel and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation if the Jewish people.”**

Peter had his moment of gaining his sight back: “Now I know for certain…” Revelation sets you free. The people expected execution, but waited in vain. The Lord delivered the Apostle.

**So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where many were gatherd together praying.**

The church is in persecution. James had been beheaded, Peter taken away. Herod is waiting for Passover to end in order to bring Peter before the people. Why is he waitng? For some reason he beheaded James immediately, but wanted to bring Peter forth. It happened before: Pontius Pilate did the same to destroy Jesus by the hands of the Jews. And when Herod had taken Peter before all of them they would have shouted, “Crusify him!” This is why Peter says these words, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His Angel and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the EXPECTATION if the Jewish people.”

It means, the Jewish people expected Peter’s death. Herod wanted to work out this matter by the hands of the Jews. The same thing is happening now: they buy unclever people that produce TV programs, write articles for newspapers, pour dirty stuff upon the church in different ways. And those unclever people go out of themselves: “Look, we have now sectarians here”. The very same thing Herod did: wanted to destroy Peter by the hands of the crowd. But the Lord delivered him. Everything is the same, absolutely nothing new. This chapter is prophetic for us.

**Faith and receiving answers to prayers**

**So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, where many gathered.**

Where MANY gathered. It was a big prayer gathering. Imagine, James had been beheaded, Peter arrested. Two Supreme Apostles had been taken away. What is the church doing – secretly gathering for prayer in a big gathering. So shall we have big prayer gatherings. No one will know those addresses. They will find out, get there, and we are no longer there, but the gatherings are getting more and more, in more and more cities, more and more countries! Big prayer gatherings, unknown to anyone. And the Angels of the Lord will be guarding and leading “Peters” by the Holy Spirit

So the church, praying in the night! Someone is saying: “How come these sectarians pray in the night time?! What is this?! One must sleep at night! ”- What a clever idea! Ask Jesus what one must do in the night. Jesus prayed in the night! The Apostolic church prayed in the night! Apostle Paul says he was "often in sleeplessness." And we need to pray in the night to make our spirit stronger. Hallelujah!

**And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. But they said to her: “Are you beside yourself!”** (There, brothers! It turns out that she was an non-believer, and they were even worse). **Yet, she kept insisting that it was so. So they said: "It is his angel." Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking**. Peter was knocking: “Well, what's the matter with you guys ?! Open up! Do you know where I’ve come from? ”

**When they opened the door and saw him they were astonished.**  
Even if the church did not expect such a direct answer, God still answered and rescued Peter. We must believe in what we pray for! Are we praying for the Apostolic fire, for the Revival? We must believe!

**But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent ...**  
Peter forced the flesh to keep silent. That’s it, enough! He told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison and told them to report these things to James and the brothers. Then he departed and went to another place.  
An Apostle must go to other places. An Apostle must move on to other cities in order to carry the Word and the Kingdom. He can be stopped only by either locking him up in a cage or by destroying his body. And Peter went to another place! Why doesn’t it say specifically where? In every other place it says: "... went to Joppa," "... to Lydda." And here: "... went to another place." The feeling is that spies are even here, between the lines. I think it was normal that no one knew where Peter went.  
Even Luke didn’t know, so he wrote "other." See how we have to learn to work. Therefore, do not speak out everything you’ve got. We need to have wisdom from the Lord. There was a time when we could speak everything that we wanted, but now this time is over. Let us pray that good times come and we can express our thoughts freely, as people of this earth. It is not normal if we cannot say what we think. But we have an advantage: we preach the Word of God!

**Self destruction of darkness**

**Then, as soon as it was day there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death. Ans he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there.**  
The kingdom of darkness destroys itself: Herod executed his own guards, although they were innocent. This evil came out against the Angelic world, and for this, of course, will be punished.  
  
**Now Herod was very angre with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord and, having made Blastus, the king’s personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king’s country. So on a set day, Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting: "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" Then immediately an Angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.**  
Pride, vanity is the scourge of tyrants. Herod coveted to become a god. Therefore, when the people shouted: “The voice of a god, and not of a man,” Herod did not put out those praises. And the Angel of the Lord struck him.  
I heard testimonies of how the Angel of God struck people who were traitors in times of persecution. One of the elderly brothers in Vladivostok shared that once during a famine, their whole community agreed to give all thier sugar to children, but one person said: I am single, not married, I will not give up my sugar. Suddenly, he fell, his belly split open, worms started coming out from his inside. Forgive me, aesthetes, but that is what God did: in the Christian community, the man who would not give his sugar to children, had his stomach explode. Do you also say that this is a sect?  
 **The Word of God grew and spread.**  
So, three breakthroughs came. The first one is the release from prison. We must pray: “Lord, take them out of prison!” The second is an open city. “Open up the city, Lord!” And third one - judgments over the wicked. “Lord, throw over the wicked ones!” And we do not call forth the judgements on people, we do not curse them. We bless and pray: “Have mercy on them, stop them on the paths of darkness, so that they may return into the light!” This is what prayer should be like - with goodness. But at the same time, we must understand what kind of things happen through the prayers of the saints.

**And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem (to Antioch) when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John, whose surname was Mark.**  
See, Saul moves between the cities right amidst of the most severe persecutions, brings the offerings, then takes Mark along with him into the discipleship for raising him up and moves the disciples to other cities.  
This is what we are doing now: we continue to work and reinforce. The brothers come to us and leave us. Come from where? - From mission field to get strengthened. Where are they leaving? - On mission, to serve in churches, to multiply disciples. And no matter how big of a pressure we are going through, we must continue laboring. As the Apostolic church did, so shall we do! The only thing that can stop you and all of us is fear. But if you cast out the fear you shall overcome! If you have fear, cast it out, because fear will destroy you. Cast out fear! Hallelujah!

**The Book of Acts**

**Chapter 13**

**Spiritual Foundations for Building up the Body of the Church**

**Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."**   
Here we see the local church transiting to the level of the Apostolic Center. At first the church of Antioch was a “local” church, but then it became an Apostolic Church.  
There were two gifts of ministry there, as we read: "prophets and teachers." There were also evangelists who actually raised the church in Antioch – men of Cyprus and Cyrene. Then a deacon came there - Barnabas. And deacon is a pastoral gift. There are five gifts of ministry: Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. And in the pastoral pillar there are three levels: deacon, presbyter, bishop. Thus, deacon Barnabas was in the pastoral gift. Seeing that there was much grace there, and there was a need to teach, so that the grace was not vainly received, he brought Saul and for about a year, as it is written, they were teaching. The church was clothed in prophetic and teaching gifts. So it comes out that there were already evangelists, pastors, prophets and teachers, but Apostles were lacking. This is very interesting, here we see the development of events.  
The church was rising, but in order for Apostles to rise in it, it had to enter into the full blessing — the commissioning by Christ:  
"Go to the ends of the earth and preach, make disciples." And when a little later, Saul and Barnabas entered into this blessing, they began to be called Apostles. This is it! Here is the entry point - when the Church of Antioch became Apostolic. See, how interesting!  
The Acts of the Apostles are becoming alive for us! Today we are also on the way for our regional churches to become Apostolic centers, and today the Lord is working on the leaven.  
The traditional model of the church exists in this kind of format: the pastor is an orchestra-man who does everything: he is in charge of administration, he oversees the accounting, the ushers team, the choir, he prepares a sermon, and so on.  
When did it happen? When the power of God left the church, when the gifts ceased to move, and man began to build a structure upon the intellect, called the "Christian church." Take a classic pastor today — he is not a prophet. Sorry. He is not an Apostle. Sorry twice. He may be a teacher, maybe an evangelist a little, but these two gifts do not manifest as “the prophet and Apostle,” but the church is established on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets!  
Where is then the Apostolic church? The picture of our world is such that most churches do not have the fullness. And is it so that there so no Holy Spirit in them? Yes, the Holy Spirit is there, but the fullness is not. Take, for example, a person who is committed just to himself — he learned a little here, a little there, and ask him: in what area are you a specialist? And he goes: "Well, I can repair a water tap or drive a car." OK, but who are you? - He can’t say! Do you understand? The Lord wants to raise the gifts in church that will build up the saints for the work of ministry. It is written that "He has led captivity captive, ascended on high, and gave gifts to men." Christ gave “some to be Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers for the work of ministry, for edifying of the Body of Christ”. And the Body of Christ cannot be built up in the fullness of ministry without the five gifts of ministry. And we see this with the example of the Church of Antioch.

**As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."**   
Ministry to God with fasting and prayer released a prophecy, which was to raise up Barnabas and Saul into the Apostles. It did not happen that Peter came and ordained them as Apostles. No, they themselves were to enter into this grace, they were to receive the impowerment in the fields. And the Lord did not immediately reveal that He would give them to be Apostles, He said: “Separate Barnabas and Saul to Me for the work to which I have called them.” Separate them. They were separated for the ministry.

**And when they had fasted and prayed ...**  
That is, they did fast and prayer to the end.

**And laid their hands on them, they sent them away. These, being sent forth by the Holy Spirit, departed into Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.**  
"Being sent by the HOLY SPIRIT"! And what do we usually do:

- Who wants to go on an evangelism trip?  
- I! I am on vacation.  
- Do you have a car?  
- Yes.  
- And the money for gasoline?  
- There is.  
- All right, fine, that's how the Lord arranged everything!  
But this is not the way in the Apostolic Church. In the Apostolic Church, they prayed and fasted so that the Holy Spirit would reveal to them who should go.  
Today we’ve stopped sending teams in order to give place to fast  
and prayer. People willing to go should pray, fast, and seek the Lord. If the Lord is prompting you and has already revealed to you that you must move, meet your minister and tell about it, and we will pray about how to do this. We will present this desire before God.  
And when we put people on the list, then send them, and pray only at the end - this is not the Apostolic way. It is better to step back, go deep into the Word and do as the Apostolic church did: we shall better pray, fast, so that the Lord separates those, whom He has considered. And even if we don’t receive a direct revelation on who and where should move, we shall do what we ought to do – we shall fulfill fast and prayer before God, that He may reveal; and then in the spirit of council and might we’ll begin planning. These are intangable things, but they are true, therefore, we shall do so.

We are going into the Word deeper and deeper. The only question is how far are we ready to go? During the years of my ministry to the Lord, I have always been tempted to immerse myself in programs that “work” in the Body of Christ - “G12”, “5 to 5”, “Alpha courses”, etc. We can think: “Well, these programs “work” in churches all over the world: in England, Colombia, Korea!” And without asking the Lord, we begin to introduce them into our church. But there is the Word of God, which is the door, and today we are experiencing a blessed time when God is opening His Word, and we can enter straight into it, as if through a door.  
For example, right now I am preaching to you from only two or three verses, and everything becomes clear: the Word reveals, that before sending a team, it is necessary to fulfill fast and prayer. And we can say: “How is it, what if we don’t receive a revelation?” Wait a second, if we minister to the Lord and fast, the Lord will tell us what to do next. Do you understand? We must act after the Word. And the Holy Spirit teaches us to do the way the Apostles did in the First Church.  
I am giving the teaching on how we will send teams, and also the technology - what the team will be doing in their place. When the team arrives at the place, what should they do? They must open the heavens above this place. The team doesn’t come to distribute newspapers and leave; they are there for the heavens to come on earth.  
Our motivation must be cleansed. We don’t go to villages just to be in the country side, swim in the river and at the same time also serve the Lord. These things must be immediately burned out with the red hot iron of the Holy Spirit. Ask yourself a question: are you ready to be persecuted for the Gospel in a new place? Are you ready to suffer beatings of bandits? Are you ready to bear sorrow for the message that you preach? Are you ready to pay the price in order to bring the Word there?  
Therefore, we do not go to villages to relax, make selfies and at the same time distribute brochures. Do you understand? We go there to preach the Gospel and to birth church. And when we go such way, signs will follow us. It's amazing that we can put the Word into action today.  
  
**Legitimate strive in the commitioning**

**Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul ...**  
Why not Niger, not Lucius? Why not Simeon? God has a plan. It was Barnabas and Saul who received the empowerment: they were separated and called for ministry.

**And when they had fasted and prayed, laid their hands on them (that is had cpmpleted the matter), they sent them away.**   
We know that the two main traditions that the church observes today are the baptism and the Supper. But in these verses we see that there were other important traditions in the First Apostolic Church: laying hands at the comissioning, fulfilling prayer and fast, receiving revelation before the mission. Aren’t those traditions? The ordination of ministers happened through their meeting the requirements of the Word, instruction in righteousness, and the making of the covenant of Levi.  
I want to tell to ministers: before taking people for testing, before ordaining them deacons, presbyters and, in the future, bishops, first teach them the covenant of Levi. Why do many priests fall, quit their ministry, why are they not ready to die for themselves? Because they are not priests.  
When they were ordained, they were not told that the priest of God must abide in God's presence, he should abide in the Word. And if he has no Word either in his head or his mouth, what kind of priest is he then?  
In the second chapter of Malachi it is written that the priests are the messangers of the Lord of hosts, and that they are in the covenant of Levi. It means that they are in the covenant with God through water baptism and also in the covenant of Levi through the ordination of priesthood. What does “the covenant of Levi” mean? This means that the life of the priest is connected with the church. A person who is not ready for this cannot be ordained. Would you like to have a priest who is not dedicated into a church and works part-time in it? What will he preach? He must be a bond-servant of his ministry!  
Today we need to enter into the Apostolic traditions. The spirit of a pioneer can not sit still: it breaks into new territories, not only  
geographical ones, but also new territories in teaching, in revelation. The Lord is calling us into the depths of God’s Word, because at the depths the mystery of stewardship is revealed!

**They went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.**

**And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.**

They made the decision - to move through the cities and villages with preaching. They went down to Seleucia, and from there to Cyprus. They also had John as their assistant.  
I want to say a few words about John. If you read this chapter, you know that John will not make it, he will fall under the pressure of Elymas the sorcerer and fall away from the brothers.

**Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus,**

**who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man.**  
They, being sent by the Holy Spirit, went through the whole island. Cyprus is a rather big island.  
Sometimes we come to a place and think: “Now, from the very first minutes, the movement will begin. First, an owl will fly to us, sit on the hood, then a peregrine falcon will sit on the shoulder, and then, of course, a gypsy will run out to meet ”.  
But they went through the whole island, and - nothing. Then the sorcerer comes out to them. This is the Apostolic grace: they were moved by the Holy Spirit, and found only one magician. See, not everything is so sweet when the Lord sends you. Therefore, when you go to preach the Gospel and there are inconvenient, unusual meetings, remember they can carry destiny. Appreciate every person that you meet on the way. This may be a completely unusual person - a child or a grandmother, some man with mushrooms who crossed the road right before you, or a shepherd running after a cow - anyone. You must be accurate and attentive, because God rules the universe.  
We had such a story. We came to a settlement in the north, and we were immediately taken to a local artist. He said to us: “My god is tiger!” Then the locals forced us to buy a phone. We said: "We haven’t come here for this!" But they: "No, you have to buy us a phone." We bought them a phone, and for this they accomodated us in the hospital. And there we were lying in the hospital wards, the lightning flashing outside the window, and at that time they pierced our tires with a knife! Very unusual story. Such, in fact, those guides turned out to be - enemies of the Gospel.  
Then we decided to go to the disco place thinking: we will preach there. The Lord tells us: "Do not preach." All right, we sat down, waiting. It is totally dark around us, can see nothing, only can hear footsteps... It turned out the guides could see us as if in the day light because they are strong hunters and can find their way in the dark perfectly well. But after this trip we had a ministry born there, and we thank God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit!

I also remember how we started the ministry in one town of Primorye. When we arrived there, we were met by a girl, literally, a skeleton, scabs on the face, skin of violet color... She was walking and licking her ice cream. I thought then that red lines must be remaining on this white ice cream. We run up to her saying: “Jesus loves you!” She got frightened, but turned out to be the “son of peace”, she took us to the “hopping room”, where they took drugs - highway prostitutes, drug addicts, HIV-infected. That was where our church began.  
Each time I came to this city, I would go their at once. I remember we brought a brother from India there. We tell him: "Testify." But he sat down and "got frozen". We say: “Why aren’t you saying anything?” He replies: “I cannot, I have not seen anything like this in India”. Then this girl, her name was Vika the Tower, died in our arms. A tear rolled down her cheek and she breathed her last. But she was already saved, she accepted the Lord!  
We may have strange encounters with unusual people. But these people may be the doors that God opens to enter the sphere that He has prepared. We don’t choose them, but we must recognize them.  
For this reason when we are moving to a place, we must be attentive to whoever God sends on our way in order to enter the society through this person. The Bible says, "Eat and drink what they have." That is why our task is to eat from their fridge and sleep in their beds.  
I remember we were with sisters in India in the Red Lights area. And they cooked us something to eat, poured some water. And right near by there are open toilets, flies, and two hundred meters away from us are five thousand prostitutes behind the bars. We sat down and the local sister said: “What are you up to? Will you eat here?” I say, “Yes, we will eat here. We will purposely eat here.” And then she began to cry and said: "For the first time I see foreigners who eat here." I said: “I am here to share the meal with all these women. I take this supper of love as a sign that souls will be saved here.” And we ate there prophetically.  
Eat whatever you are offered! One day my brother and I decided to preach the Gospel in a settlement of a small ethnic group. You take a helicopter to get there, and the brother could not get us tickets for two months. Then we said: “That’s it, we will fly tomorrow”. He goes: "How is that? We don’t have tickets.” The very next day we broke through to the helicopter, I made my way into it, sat down and said I would not get out. The stewards say to me: "Come out, you have no tickets." I say, “No, I'm a reporter. And this is my cameraman!” The brother had the equipment, we wanted to show Jesus film. So we flew there. We arrived there and walked, preaching the Gospel. We spent the night in the mayor's office: I slept on the table and my brother, I think, in the chair. We ate goat, recently shot, with salt...  
Then we thought: that’s it, we must move on - to the next place. We learnt we had to raft in boats to get there. We rented a boat and moved down the river. Our guide takes a jar of pure alcohol, pours it into his cup and drinks it in one gulp, then dips water from the river with a cup and drinks it down in one gulp again. And along with this he makes it to fish.  
And we are moving, we have the equipment with Jesus film. Now we made it. A wild place: the sea and taiga. What should we do? We went and began to show the movie. Then we found a house, stayed there for the night, slept on our hosts’ beds. So we spent the time of evangelism.  
And you do the same: go into their homes, eat their food and sleep in their beds. Because so it is written in the Word. Abraham walked in the land, and then where he walked, the Kingdom of Heaven came. Therefore, go through these places, testify of the Lord!

**Confronting the occult powers of darkness**

**Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus,**

**who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man**.**This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the Word of God.**  
The proconsul called them to hear the Word, but Elymas the sorcerer resisted, trying to turn him away from his faith. The rulers long to hear the Word of God, but the vessels of darkness turn them away from the light, so that they do lawlessness, sustain sin and corruption.  
I heard that sorcerers, false prophets or psychics always emerge around presidents. In the Buddhist world there is always a Lama who guides the governor or the mayor and divines for him.  
We see this in the Bible: Daniel and the Magi fought for the king, so did Moses and the priests. And there the battle began: Paul was drawn to this open man, the proconsul, but there was this sorcerer.  
When God opens a door for you to some important person, perhaps even to the mayor or the governor, immediately pay attention to the “spiritualists” around him.  
Ask such a person a few questions: “When you need advice, to whom do you turn?” And you will hear a lot of useful information. He may go for advice to a priest or maybe - to a shaman, or to a psychic, or often times he looks up the horoscope.  
If you see that an authority person uses unclean sources, no matter how supernatural they are, it means, there is demonic control working over the whole territory of his authority. And even if he follows the advice of a spiritually weak person, of some medium of small caliber, demonic influence is released over the entire territory. We should pray for the liberation of leaders from the control of demonized people.

**But Elymas the sorcerer, for so his name is translated, withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said: “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind not seeing the sun for a time.”**  
Here is the Apostolic directness and the authority to destroy the darkness. Apostles release judgments, and the pure Word is prophesied by the judgments. The Apostle also calls the hand of the Lord. The western church today is in absolutely different things. They have a code of prophets, which states: never hurt a person, never reprimand a person if he is not ready for it. And how then to interpret this Scripture?

**And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done…**  
That’s it! The time for the proconsul has come. Remember the prophecy of Samral about the revival in Russia? He said: "... key people will be saved." And here we see that this prophecy is after the Word. See how the Apostles brought the awakening to that place? Through the Apostolic influence the territory was cleansed: the key man accepted the Lord, and the sorcerer was removed from the court. Salvation came through fear, as it is written: "... but others save with fear pulling them out of the fire."

**... being astonished at the teaching of the Lord ...**  
The Gospel is astonishing! When you go to the Buddhist world, astonish with the Gospel. In the Muslim world – astonish with the Gospel! Astonish not only with the beauty of the teaching of forgiveness, but also with the power of the Apostolic invasion!

**The power of the team ministry. Calling for the team**

**Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia**  
See what is interesting: "Paul and his party." It used to say every time: "Saul and Barnabas," and now: "PAUL and his party.” After the manifestation of the Apostolic courage, the Holy Spirit singles out Paul, while Barnabas and John are called "his party". Paul had entered into the things of God and never returned again. There is an entry point into the gifts of ministry. We may not plan or know it, but there is an entry point when God sees you as a gift. Be like Paul. The team leader. A brave vessel.  
The Holy Spirit leads them on, and they move to new places. And so, Paul gets on board the ship, he is there with the disciples, the sailors get their wages, and the ship sails off.

**and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem**  
Remember, we started speaking about John when he was still with them? He could still stand that level of the pressure. But after what had happened - enough, he wanted to get back “to his mother”. He didn’t make it and gave up. The Holy Spirit did not say to take John, He said: “Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul.” And when Jesus sent, He sent in two, and not with an armorbearers. David went against Goliath alone, but Goliath went against him with an armorbearer. Every key demon has an armorbearer. But we do not need armorbearers, we need the Holy Spirit.

**“Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul” ...**  
But they took also John, and he was not able to stand it and returned, but he did not fall away. Thank God for His grace! Later Barnabas would again want to take John with him; this was his nephew: Barnabas had soul ties. Paul refused, because John had already left them before, and Paul didn’t want to take him again on a dangerous journey. He saw John in dangerous situations and no longer wanted to move with this man, because Paul was ready to die, but this boy was not. But thank God for His grace! John was restored to the team of the Apostle. Paul later makes a call: “... send me Mark” (Mark, who was also called John). And many years had passed before John-Mark became a man of God. The grace of restoration did its work.

**But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men *and* brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.”**When we move in the ministry of God, we can get into a religious structure, and this is normal, accept this challenge. We see them going to the Gentiles, but when there was a synagogue on their way they ministered there. Synagogue for us today is not only ministry to the Israeli people, but also working in organized communities.  
For example, you came on mission to a certain place – find out, how many churches there are, what kind of churches these are. If you have been invited for a church service, go and meekly give your testimony of salvation. It is also a part of the missionary work. Do not announce: “We have come here to plant a church,” - people might not like it. It will be good if you tell about what God has done in your life. It will be good if you give a prophetic word that God reveals to this community. So, accept the challenge - to move there!

**Preaching to the religious world**

**Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, «Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen!»**  
Paul always accepted the challenge to preach. And you can notice: he always raised his hand before speaking. When he stood before Agrippa, he raised his hand. This is amazing: Paul preached with his hand raised!

**Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: The God of this people ]Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it.Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.“After that He gave *them* judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.**  
See how well Paul knows the Scripture. The Jews follow every word of his, and Paul says it all accurately: "... about 450 years." He is a “one hundred percent specialist” in Judaism.

**‘…I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after My *own* heart, who will do all My will.’ From this man’s seed, according to *the* promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus.**  
Paul went through Abraham, Moses, David, and from David to Jesus. See the way? Then Paul leads to God resurrecting Christ from the dead, and Him no longer turning to corruption. This is a sermon in the organized religion. Paul preached the resurrection in Jesus.  
The sermon must make sense, have a sharpened key spearhead. When you preach in some churches, your sermon should have its spearhead sharp, you must understand what exactly you want to say with your message, and not just to just speak for the sake of speaking.

**Therefore He also says in another *Psalm:* ‘You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.’“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you.**  
Now he has taken them to the crossroads, to the specific decision: to accept or reject the Word. Paul did not only impress them, like a sweet singer, he brought them to the choice. Someone said that evangelism is the process of bringning a person to the crossroads: whether to accept Jesus or reject Him. We must preach the Gospel so that the person has to make his choice, and not just inspire him that there is God and leave after that, having given nothing to him.  
That is why people do not get born again. Because they “get hooked” by our tricks, but when we bring them to a choice through the direct Word, then they will truly get born. That is the way Paul always did it.

**So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.** I like Gentiles, they are very open.

**Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes…**  
There are already two streams here: the Jews honoring God and devout proselytes.

**… followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.**  
The followers out of the Jews and those who honor God were revealed. The Apostolic word to the new believers was this: “to continue in the grace.” The Apostolic teaching for new believers strengthens them in grace. The Apostles are establishing the young church in the grace! Therefore strengthen young children in the grace!

**On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.**This is the result of faithful Apostolic ministry and obedience to the Spirit. But:

**But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.**  
Such was the reaction of religion to the Apostolic ministry. When the awakening comes, you and I will be attacked by the religious system. They will be filled with envy when they see how big of a crowd is following Jesus straight and direct, saying not “Lord, have mercy on me,” but “Jesus, I love You!” They will get furious, because they themselves have no such relationship with the Lord.

**Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.**

A breakthrough by the Apostolic ministry! They went through all of it: casting out demons, saving a key man, preaching in the synagogue, which they entered like a door, and the whole city opened. And the spread of the Gospel came. The Apostles broke through the persecution, and the Word of God spread throughout the country, a breakthrough came for the whole region.

**But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.**  
As always, “stirred up and raised persecution”, “stirred up and expelled from their region”. But:

**But they shook off the dust from their feet against them…**We have not yet used such a tradition.

**... and came to Iconium.**  
I am impressed. The Apostles are doing the thing that we have completely forgotten about. Tell me, do we need to change anything? This is the book of Acts, at the end of which there is no Amen. How far have we drifted away in our sweet presentation of the “cream gospel” ?!

**And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.**  
The Apostles continued moving to new places in directness, courage, principle, and the disciples grew, got filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

**The Book of Acts**

**Chapter 14**

**Wisdom in working with the Christian world**

**Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.**

It is interesting that they again entered the synagogue. For us in Russia “synagogue” symbolizes a religious organization, i.e. church. We come to a new place and find out that there is a church meeting here. And we come to this meeting because it can become a door for us, like the synagogue became the door for Paul and Barnabas.  
When our brothers and sisters come to new cities, they are sometimes invited to a church when they learn that they are former drug addicts. But there is a danger for our people to start playing stars there. And instead of building up their congregation, some brothers start attending other ones. They come, preach, tell how they were drug addicts. A month, two, three go by - and they keep visiting churches and giving their testimonies...  
We stop such brothers. The church can be a door for a little time. Communication with new people, getting information. And even here one must be careful, because this information can be distorted.  
If you talk to local pastors and leaders about the situation in the city, they will give you a certain picture, and then you come into the world and talk to ordinary people about the same city, and they give you completely different information! Do you understand what I'm talking about?  
It happened to us when we came on mission and got negative information about the place. We were told: "You won’t be able to do anything here." And instead of inspiring and rejoicing that brothers had come, they attacked us.  
In one country, we met with a person who was in charge of the Russian-speaking churches, and realized that we had to urgently close our spirits, because he was a “black prophet” for us. He spoke about how difficult it is to serve in this country, how small Russian churches are there and that nothing would work out. But today we have our ministry there several times bigger than what he predicted to us. Praise our Lord! So then we looked at each other with my brother and closed our spirits. You need to stay awake when you enter someone else’s synagogue! Especially if that synagogue is not revived by the Holy Spirit. This is why we prefer to go to sinners. I already said it before: break through to the “refrigerators” and to the “hosts’ bed”!

**and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed.**    
I want to draw your attention to the words: "... so spoke that they believed." How did they speak? We have to perfect our sermon. Church members should pray for their pastors that they preach the Living Word. Because sermon is the heart of a church service. If there is no Word of God in the service, then people will leave hungry. Therefore, all the people of God must always pray for the pastor or the preacher who gives the Word so that the Word may be preached in the power and revelation of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**And the unbelievers of Judea stirred and annoyed the heathen hearts of the brethren. However, they stayed here for quite some time, bravely acting in the Lord ...**  
Confrontation, persecution. The false brothers went to the Gentiles, to unbelievers, and began, as it is written, to stir them up so that persecution would begin. But what is interesting? They "bravely acted in the Lord"! I want to ask you: what does it mean to “act bravely in the Lord”? Imagine: you come to a village or a town, you stand at the central store. Somewhere in the distance, a cow is mooing, young guys are smoking the “weed”, people are heading to the river after the day heat… And there you are. How do you “act bravely in the Lord?” - Go straight to the grandmother? Or to the kids? Is this “ to act boldly in the Lord”?  
Once a man of God came to us and showed how to “act boldly in the Lord.” Why was he shot at? Why was he beaten with sticks and stones? It was namely for this: he "bravely acted in the Lord." And when we come    
some place, what would it mean “act boldly in the Lord” there? It means to release the Word about Christ straightly! Bluntly, straight from the shoulder to speak about God!  
If you start “mixing up” - about “daisies”, about “cornflowers”, and then a little about Christianity ... This is not “to act bravely in the Lord”!

**Who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.**   
It was namely for the sake of “bearing witness to the Word” that He worked signs and wonders by their hands . In the Apostles there was courage, braveness and a risk in the Lord! If they had “blurred” the Word, it would not have been anointed with miracles. But since it was direct, they were in danger. And in order to witness that they were telling the truth, God worked wonders.  
One of the reasons why miracles do not occur, because the Word is not boldly presented, it is not revealed to the full glory. If we release this Word in a risky atmosphere, God comes and testifies.

**The time cycle in the ministry of the messenger**

**…they stayed there a long time**  
Our tradition of staying on a mission should gain Apostolic character. How long do you think a missionary should stay on a mission?  
Some flee: just in an instant, he gives a notice that he is leaving. But we learnt it from the brethren - I read this decree, - that when a minister leaves his pastoral ministry without permission and moves to another place without being commitioned, he automatically loses his priesthood uniform.  
Do you think this is fair? Here, for example, a pastor ministers in a church. Then he calls his curator and says: “I am leaving, I’ve got tickets”. - “How is it that are you leaving?!” - “Yes, I am leaving. My wife and I decided - we must go." From such a person his priesthood uniform is removed automatically. Go, no one is holding. But this is not of him which is written: "The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."  
I sometimes watch missionaries leave their mission places. I ask them if they keep in touch with the people they preached there to.No, they don't even inquire how they are. Those are hirlings! How did you shephard the people if you don't even communicate with them after you had left?!  
You can imagine that Jesus went to heaven, and He has no time to remember us. Can you imagine it?!  
Therefore, a minister is sent on mission and gives his soul for the sheep. And when he has been doing work there for several years, as we say, at least four years, because less is not a time period, then there can be some kind of talk about praying, fasting, searching the Lord regarding further movement. Of course, there are exceptional cases: illness, death of relatives, and so on. But you understand what I'm talking about.  
  
It says here: "they stayed for a long time." How much is this “ a long time enough”? When we send a missionary, he must be ready to go there for a long time. He does not say: “Oh, now I move here and then I will move again”. So you will move among people, but where do you get into their soul? And so we need to pray for achieving signs and wonders in the cause of God.

**Understanding the “time periods”**

Look at the period of persecution in the First Church: none of the rest dared join them. Today the church does the opposite: it “pushes” the advertisment, feeds unbelieving people with the Supper to attract as many souls as possible. They say that although you do not believe in Christ, but here, eat the Supper, - what if you get healed. Then you will see, maybe you will believe. They baptize in the same way: baptize whoever wants to be baptized!

**…none of the rest dared join them**  
This means that the rest made their way, but dared not. This means that when Barnabas brought Saul, Saul was not admitted. Barnabas says: "I am responsible for him; indeed, the light from heaven blinded him." And Paul is standing there in meekness thinking: "Lord, if only they let me in."  
See what kind of period was in the church then? And we must understand in which period we are now, and we also need to go into an understanding of how to work properly with the threshold of the temple.  
It is written in the Word: "they had fixed the threshold of the temple." Sometimes the threshold of the temple is way too high, it blocks the entrance for sinners and repentance is very rare. For example, we declare: "From now on all the sisters wear head covers." I speak with great respect about head covers; if any woman comes to us in a head cover, I will never tell her to take it off. I respect and honor this. But for us, as a missionary, evangelistic church, this tradition is too high of a threshold, because a new comer will understand that if he wants to shorten the distance, he will have to dress like everyone else.   
Or a person comes into a church and does not change. Such a low threshold that a year later he still doesn’t know where the Gospel of John is located. Such a low threshold that an entirly worldly church appears before him. Today we must work with the doors and the threshold of the temple. At that time the threshold in the Apostolic Church was quite high: “none of the rest dared join them”.

**The Book of Acts.**

**Chapter 15**

**Fighting for freedom and purity of teaching**

**And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.**  
You know that the Church of Antioch was born supernaturally. Antioch was a completely Gentile city, and there, from scratch, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ was born. The people from Cyprus and Cyrene, who started this church, were evangelicals - they preached to the Gentiles outside the synagogue and when many Gentiles came to the Lord, they didn’t understand what to do next. Then they sent to them Barnabas, the deacon from Jerusalem.  
Barnabas came and rejoiced when he saw the grace that was there. And then he took Saul, brought him to Antioch, and they taught the church the Word of God. After some time the gifts of ministry rose there: the prophets who prophesied and the teachers who taught. What was missing was the ministry of Apostles. And when they fasted and prayed, the Holy Spirit said: “Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul.” They sailed off at the command of the Holy Spirit, and in this same chapter it is written that they became Apostles. No one ordained them, the Holy Spirit clearly states that they became Apostles right in the middle of the battle. Therefore, the entry point can overtake you in the most unusual place.  
The brothers had already returned after the first missionary journey, full of miracles and signs, ordained presbyters, everything seemed to go well, but suddenly some Jews crept in — perhaps through acquaintances, through relatives — and began to teach that, “ if you are not circumcised, according to the custom of Moses, you will not be saved. "  
God works straight, Satan works furtively. Recognize Satan, if he has already come to you, cast him out. Say this: "Go to the pastor and tell him what you just told me."

... **no small dissension and dispute happened**  
You see, these people have already worked so well that a no small dispute of Paul and Barnabas with them took place. Why? Because the Apostles had recognized Satan.  
And when he took 5, 10, 50 people hostage, the Apostles began to fight for the souls who had been seduced. The church is established on the foundation of grace; this is why the New Testament Apostles fight for the teaching founded on grace.  
If the church abides in grace, it will live forever. What happened to the Galatians? They fell off from grace, having decided to add ceremonies to their faith. Probably the troubling people had a very pious look and there was something so unusual about them that people began to listen to them. Religion has a mask, but behind this mask is a spirit that wants to take captive. Today we must realize that grace sets free, but the letter of the law takes man captive. Fight for the doctrine of freedom, for the doctrine of grace!  
Then, since this happened far from Jerusalem, their own ideologues emerged in the Church of Antioch. I think it was already a whole attack that grasped part of the church. But those people did not move in Jerusalem, because there were eleven Apostles there. But, nevertheless, what happened was a serious test. And then they put Paul and Barnabas and some others (that is, a team of pastors was assembled) to go on this business to the Apostles and Presbyters in Jerusalem.

**So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.**  
Today, we are in extreem need that our pastors be real priests. What is there in a priest? The Word is in him. He walks in the Word. Jesus was so filled with the Word that He Himself was called the Word.  
Priests must be full of grace and truth. From their mouth people seek knowledge. And also a priest is a holistic person who actually lives by what he believes. He lives before God. He may be young, unexperienced, he may not yet have a list of miracles and revelations. This is not a problem.  
So it was with Timothy. In his time Timothy preached a very simple sermon: he spoke about the ways of Paul. And, of course, not only that, he also carried the teaching. It was evident that this was a man of God, he was seeking the Lord, he was uncompromising, unselfish. Today, we urgently need real brothers, who can be chosen, as Barnabas and Saul were chosen, and send them to the Apostles.

**The true testimony**  
**(correct representation of one’s own people)**

Sometimes I happened to speak before the Body of Christ at solemn gatherings. I was always worried and still get worried: am I a worthy minister of the Russian Church? Everyone knows that the Church of Russia went through persecution. The way Russians behave abroad is also known, and it is not always a role model. But we must present to this world the Christians of Russia, who bear the burden of the Russian Church and are an example of true believers.  
We still have to reach the right priesthood pattern. I want to say one thing: it all starts with the priests. Even the judgments will begin with the House of God. And the House of God will be judged beginning not from the parishioners, but from the priests. The priests will be the first to enter the fire. When the priests in the Old Testament carried the Ark, they first stepped into the water, and then they were the last to come out.  
So it shall be at the Great Judgment. Dear brothers and sisters, we must pray for the pastors. Not just pray that everything in their life goes wonderful, but that they are the true men of truth. There will be nothing without suffering. A person who hasn’t gone through suffering, who hasn’t had serious experiences, has no character. Therefore, do not be afraid when you are shaken - this is normal. The most important thing is not that we have no problems, but that we remain priests in every life circumstance. With any kind of losses, shakings, these people remain faithful to God. He is always in ministry, he always has a word, and no matter what happens, he cannot be stopped, he will preach the truth of God and will not break. This is the priest of God!  
So they chose Barnabas, Saul and some more brothers, and sent these best ministers on a serious matter. The Church of Antioch, in turn, submitted to the supreme Apostles.  
A brother who does not submit, who does not have spiritual mentors - this is very dangerous. Everything starts small: he receives praise (therefore, we should not glorify man), then he begins to be independent from the Apostles, then ceases to accept the Apostles, and then begins to drive dissenters out of the church. And he is established not among the like-minded, but among the men of war who shout together with him. This is very dangerous. The unity of the brethren, the unity in the Body of Christ will keep us from this disease. Therefore, today we want to be involved in the destiny of each other. We can receive instructions and correct ourselves. It is wonderful. Unity is a great power.

**they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.**  
The brothers did not just walk silently reading their letter, they were fulfilling the ministry — they were producing great joy among the brothers they visited on the way.  
If you ever get an opportunity to visit churches on the way from one city to another, you should be a praying person who is preparing for a meeting. If I come to you and bring no knowledge, no revelation, what would be the use of me? I must be filled with the Holy Spirit! Likewise, when you visit brothers, you must bring them great joy.

**Keeping and establishing Apostolic traditions**

**And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.**  
The Apostles conveyed traditions and regulations. For example, in the Apostolic Church there was a tradition to collect offerings on Sundays. We do the same today. There was a tradition of how to do the Lord’s Supper, it was affirmed that they were to wait for each other at the Supper of love, and dinner was to be after the communion, because if you mix dinner with communion, people will start eating it all and it turns the gathering for not good.  
 Apostle Paul established all these things. And I want to inspire you, especially those who will leave a legacy for future generations: watch the Apostolic traditions.  
Let me give an example. We recently had a conference when a group of foreigners came, and we were worried due to the new events in the country. We decided to have our morning prayer on the mountain even on Saturday and Sunday. And the whole conference came to the mountain on Sunday, we experienced an amazing Word, anointing, grace, freedom. And we thought: “Let's not annoy people who live in houses at the mountain foot, we will pray quietly”. We treated these people with love.  
This is a testimony of what kind of traditions we establish: to annoy people around us or be a blessing? Brothers, sisters, we choose it ourselves – what kind of testimony to carry.  
Further on we read that the city split into two camps: some were on the side of the Apostles, and others were on the side of the Jews.  
An Apostolic church makes an effect in its city. I want to say that there are authorities in our city that don’t like us, but there are other structures and simple people who, on the contrary, thank us and donate to help our adaptation centers and homeless people homes. In the days of the Apostles it was the same: there were people who stood on the side of the Jews, and there were those who were on the side of the Apostles.  
Today we choose the traditions, which we move in. What kind of things have we accepted to hold to? Things we have made up or things received from the first Body of Christ? Paul teaches us to hold on to the Apostolic traditions, and Peter teaches us to hold on to what Paul taught and to what he himself teaches.  
We need not human regulations, but Apostolic traditions. Everything will pass away, the programs that now emerge and have temporary success will change. But the Word of God abides forever. And if you and I dare to follow the Word, regardless of opinions, then we will have a reward. There may not be instant success, popularity or huge crowds. God's Word does not promise us that. But that it is a bliss - this is true.  
I want to share with you a little testimony. One very good friend of ours gathered in his book testimonies of various people who work in North Korea, Tibet, China. He knows them personally. These are people who spent 25 years in prison for the Gospel. It’s impossible to stay at peace while reading this book. You immediately get a lump in your throat, and tears flow when you touch these life destinies.  
One of the sisters in this book testifies: “They took me and put me in a cell, I spent 25 years there. Sometimes I doubted, sometimes I fell, they beat me and treated me harsh. I worked very hard. And after 25 years, praise Jesus, they let me go. I am not afraid of suffering, and I will continue to preach the Gospel.”  
Another testimony: “We had one Bible for about 100 people. Then friends came, brought us Bibles, and we will pray for them real serious, because they brought us such a great blessing. ”  
Dear brothers and sisters, let's meet with the Word of God. Let's plunge into it. Because the modern Christian world offers so much. And we love them, we will never deny brothers. We will stand side by side with them and will suffer even for their errors, but you and I must bring freedom. Apostle Paul went further than all the Apostles. Do you know what he did? Not only he opened the doors for the Gentiles, he widened the doors into heaven. He showed it to Jews and all the nations that God loved more than they imagined. He revealed God to them! This is why Jews hated him so much: he gave salvation to the Gentiles. The Jews kept salvation for themselves, but Paul took and shared it with them, he multiplied salvation, revealed God to the nations! This is why Paul is the greatest Apostle. He says: "I have labored more than all of them." He knew what he was talking about.

**By wise coucel wage war (Spirit of Councel)**

**And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders**  
Hospitality of the church begins with the Apostles. This holistic acceptance proceeds from the Apostles to the presbyters and is affirmed in the church. When Paul and Barnabas came (here, by the way, they are not called Apostles, I think, not by chance), they came as brothers, and the Apostles rendered them hospitality. It is said with love that they were received by the church, Apostles and presbyters.

**and they reported all things that God had done with them,**   
**and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles**.  
When we testify of the Lord in the church, we must realize that our testimony must be a testimony of fullness. And if you enter into the Word of God, you will learn to testify. They clearly stated two things in their testimony. The first is “what God had done with them.” The second is “how God had opened the doors to the Gentiles.” We need to learn to testify of what God has done with us and how He works through us. You can notice that in both points God has the first place. Our testimony must be about God.

**But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.”**  
They were offended that the Gentiles were rejoicing without observing the law of Moses, without rituals, and that they were no less in spirit than the Jews. It was unbearable for them. They envied that the church was growing and there were more Gentiles there than Jews. A rebellion of the carnal rose up against the church.  
I want to say that when the material is placed above the spiritual in church, that is a deviation from the true teaching. Jesus, Apostle Paul and all the Apostles proved that the spiritual is higher than the material. Therefore, a church that starts moving in the material more than in the spiritual loses its very essence. Maybe nothing will happen with those who started with the material, but the spiritual ones will fall if they stray away from the foundation in which they were born. Therefore, in the beginning God created the HEAVEN and then the earth.

**Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.**  
Here is the structure of the Apostolic Church, look: not just Peter and Paul came, but all the Apostles gathered. A Big Brothers’ Council took place together with the Apostles and elders. Sometimes we gather, we make decisions, and then we pray: “God, bless our decisions.” And we release it in church: “This is what we have decided, let us pray that the Lord would bless this project.” But there is another approach: to gather, perhaps even without a special prophetic revelation, and pray: “Lord, bless us, we have come together. We are weak people, but we call upon the power of Your Blood, give us the spirit of council and might, so that in our conversations now we would receive from You the direction of our thoughts and feelings.” And then start to fellowship after the Word, share the Word. Always find confirmation in the Word and only then make a decision. I want to tell you: the chances that the Holy Spirit was with you are hundreds of times more than in the first case.  
Therefore, the Apostles said: "what was pleasing to the Holy Spirit and to us." And although there was no direct prophecy there, they were at least strong.

**And when there had been much dispute...**  
Perhaps the dispute went on for several hours, the Apostles allowed the elders to speak out, while they themselves sat and listened. In that way the elders were receiving the empowerment. And this is also a tradition of the Apostolic Church, which we need to learn. You can read thick books written by doctors of theology and consisting of a mixture of psychology, history and philosophy. But it is better to plunge into the Word, full of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. What is there in such books of theologians - I do not know, but here is grace.

**And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up *and* said to them: “Men *and* brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.**  
Peter drew attention to himself. Do you see how bold he is?

**So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as *He did* to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.**  
Peter is straight and strong. If we could have Peter at our meetings so that he would talk to us like that. Look, here is both love and culture, and courage.

**Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”**

Peter immediately gave the teaching of salvation by grace and faith, and called the law a yoke, which is impossible to bear.

**Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.**

**Keeping the Gospel for the Gentiles**

The Apostles defended the freedom of the Gospel also through the testimonies of God’s works.

**And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men *and* brethren, listen to me:Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:‘After this I will return  
And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down;  
I will rebuild its ruins,  
And I will set it up;  
So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,  
Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,  
Says the Lord who does all these things.’**

You know, I am so happy with the word “all”, because “all the nations” – this is you and me. Paul and Peter acquitted us, and we do not need to be circumcised, we are in freedom today.

**“Known to God from eternity are all His works. Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood.For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”**  
I want to point out that all the Apostles of the Gospel recorded in the New Testament were Israelites. And all the prophets in the Old Testament were Israelites. At one point the church adopted the replacement theology, saying that it had replaced Israel, and through this in church, the Orthodox, in particular, the spirit of anti-Semitism rose up. But if we remove the Jewish component from the Gospel of the New Testament, we block a huge artery and become crippled, disabled. This is one of the main reasons why the church is not moving in signs and wonders today.  
We must restore the Tabernacle to David fallen and not be proud, but have fear.  
And when we give the right place to Israel and the church of the Jews, we will combine these things under the grace of the guidance of the Holy Spirit and experience inpouring, healing, and spirit of grace.  
  
**Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely,* Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. They wrote this *letter* by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “*You must* be circumcised and keep the law”—to whom we gave no *such* commandment— it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.**  
This is the love of the Apostles of the Lamb to the Apostles Barnabas and Paul! Look, how they write: “...**it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul**.” See, how the Apostles of Jesus Christ loved Apostles Paul and Barnabas, such tender words they wrote: “with our beloved”.  
I like this very much, because Paul is a very direct, one can say, a conflict causing person, he even reprimands Peter in Galatians. But the Apostles understood that he was a God chosen vessel. They had the love of the spirit for Paul. Praise Jesus for the Apostles!  
They also sent Judas and Silas, the leading men among the brothers. This is very interesting why they did not send someone else. It doesn’t even say who they were, elders or deacons, it is said about them: "... the leading men among the brothers."  
It is very important for the church to have holiness. Look at how the Apostles cleanse the Gentile church from fornication, abomination, devilry, idols. The church must be spiritually cleansed from defilement. Why was the Jewish culture of worshiping Yahweh pure from demons? Because the jealous God cleansed and cast out all darkness so that there would be purity among the people of Israel. Today, traditional churches, which mixed paganism with Christianity, violated these things, because they are idols, impurities, blood and things strangled left in them. But we must not allow defilement into our spirit. There must not be any white, even the lightest magic in our lives, niether occultism or mysticism, no horoscopes, because all this is abomination! The church must be pure. Nowadays, many are defiled through the Internet. Give me your cell phone to see where you’ve been to last month, and I’ll tell a lot about you. Wherever you go virtually, your heart is staying there. In the past people literally walked with their feet - to brothels, bars, and sat among the ungodly. But today the same thing is happening: your spirit goes through the web sites, and you are virtually in the meeting of those with whom you sit there. It is very serious. It defiles.  
Satan uses technologies to defile our home, he enters like this, easily, leaking through our window leaves, - the Internet and social networks, -and defiles. And what he does is he paralyzes, weakens, and power flows out of God's people. People listen to the things of the world, get filled with impurity, and then there is neither power nor glory in the church. We won’t be able to avoid what I am telling you now, we must work with it. Therefore, the Apostles immediately cleansed the church of demons. Look at the rules that they set at that time. If they did it in our time, one hundred percent, they would touch the Internet. Because then the temples were places of gossip and news, places of impurity and magical practices, so the people needed to be cleansed of abominations that were committed there. See, how many points they have given to impurity and fornication. We also need to clean our churches so that they are holy and blameless.

**The ascension of ministers in the Apostolic Church**

**So, when they were sent off they came to Antioch...**  
The Apostles sent those brothers, so that the letter they gave would be presented with authority. It was not so that Apostles Paul and Barnabas took some piece of paper, brought it without a seal and showed it. No, they sent the leading among the brothers: Judas and Silas, who were witnesses to it being an Apostolic decision, and therefore it was authoritative.

**So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter.When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. And after they had stayed *there* for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles.**  
Out of the congregations of Antioch, where people of Cyprus and Cyrene, without knowing it, were the first evangelists, a great number of Gentiles began to get saved. Then Barnabas was sent there, then Saul came, Apostles and teachers emerged, then the missionary journey began from this congregation, and an Apostolic Church rose up. It was the Antioch people who first became known as Christians. And they reached the point where they were transformed into an Apostolic Base, an Apostolic Center.  
The church of Antioch became a center of teaching the rising revelation of salvation for the Gentiles. The Apostles passed the message to the whole Gentile church, having chosen only one congregation - the church of Antioch. It was there that Judas and Silas came to release this letter, because the church in Antioch had such a level of influence. And all the Gentiles were to receive this message already through them.  
This church was a teaching keeping center. They fought for the teaching and defended it. This was a training center, this was a center for receiving the gifts of ministry, because those were gifts of ministry from the Apostolic Base in Jerusalem. And the teachers, Judas and Silas, were also prophets.  
I want to address pastors and teachers who teach the Word of God. It is written about Judas and Silas: “the leading among the brothers”. Their ministry is “the leading ones”. Perhaps the leading ones means elders, maybe bishops, maybe deacons. **Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words**. Do you think there was a lack of exhorting in Antioch? There were such powerful ministers there: Apostle Paul, Barnabas, etc. However, Judas and Silas brought them something from the new grace. The church of Antioch was not easy to exhort, because such teachers as Apostle Paul preached there every day.  
Sometimes you come to a mature church and it's scary. You think: what can I give here, because such brothers are ministering! You realize there is maturity here, and some stories will not work, some weak testimonies will also be recognized. Judas and Silas came, and look at how rich they were, that they remained for many days, so that with abundant Word and revelation, being also prophets, they exhorted such a powerful church, where Paul and Barnabas were Apostles.  
Today I want to challenge brothers who preach: become prophets as well. Where have you dropped your raising bar? Do you earnestly desire the best gifts? What are you praying for? Are you praying to ascend? Who among the ministers today cried out that the Lord would bestow the best gifts upon him?

I am inspired by the example of Judas and Silas, because they, being also prophets, had the gift of abundance in the Word. They exhorted the believers with abundant Word. And then they were sent back by the brothers of Antioch. When Judas and Silas had served there, daily preaching and prophesying, then this grace was completed, the cycle was finished, and the brothers let them go.

**However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there. (And Judah returned to Jerusalem).**Silas is an amazing person, I love Silas. We see how Silas achieved it to move with Paul. First, he was the leading among the brothers in Jerusalem, where there were the eleven Apostles. Secondly, he was a prophesying one. Thirdly, he had an abundance in the Word. Fourth, he had the Apostolic empowerment of the Apostolic grace from the Apostles of the Lamb.  
All the brothers who were his Apostles saw Jesus Christ alive. Imagine who this Silas was! I don’t know whether he saw Christ or not — possibly — but this man decided to remain in the Church of Antioch. I think he had recognized something, which would later touch his calling. Have you recognized your calling? He recognized that he must remain in Antioch, because there was his destiny. He remained in the point of his destiny.  
For a man of God there is no country of his own, for him there is only one thing — the will of God. His apartment, his registration is called the “will of God.” And Silas got registered in Antioch, because he felt that there was the calling of his life, his destiny. Silas remained in the Antiochian Apostolic Center with prophets, Apostles, teachers, pastors, and evangelists out of the Gentiles. He filled it up and was impowered. I think he was receiving and filling up the measure to the end. This freedom of movement of gifts, minestering in the Body of Christ, astonishes me.

**Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.**  
Paul and Barnabas lived in the Church of Antioch, they chose it as their base place. Although Paul was an old man and Barnabas was from Judea, but they remained in Antioch for a long time, they practically lived there.  
I want to invite you to our church if you feel that you need to gain your destiny. Sometimes a year spent in a church where there is an Apostolic purpose will mean more than any Bible school at your local level. Silas, when he got to the church of Antioch, realized he had to stay, because it was a missionary church. Silas entered the vast space of Gentile salvation. He was involved in a wondrous destiny. And so I want to bless you with these and say: sometimes you do need to come, to get soaked, to a place where there is destiny. I wish it to all of you that you can recognize the place where your destiny is. There is your entry point - where you will sit at the feet of Jesus.

**Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are doing.”**That is, there was the first missionary journey. The second journey happened by prompting to visit the brothers.  
This was the building of Apostolic traditions. Care, pastoring of the daughter churches. Revelation about the fullness of the teaching was on the way. And in the church of Antioch this revelation continued to grow. Paul was building traditions, he had a network, he had already ordained presbyters on the way back with fasting. We take it: we should ordain presbyters with fasting. And when he came back, he wanted to visit the cities, in which there were brothers, it was building up of the Apostolic traditions, care and pastoring of the daughter churches.

**Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus.**  
This firmness and the demanding approach of Paul to the mission - not to take the one who had lagged behind and not gone with them. Why? I think that Apostle Paul didn’t just want to visit the churches, he was taking the way again to surrender to the will of God and was ready to suffer and even die.Therefore, he understood that if he took someone who had lagged behind one day, the same situation would occur, and he would have to send him away again. Therefore, he took the way not only to visit, but to discover new territories, to be persecuted again, and we will see that he received it in full.  
In the second missionary journey he received no less of new lands, new persecutions and new sufferings. So Barnabas and Mark sailed off to Cyprus. Interestingly, they headed to Cyprus - the place where Mark fell off once. They went to pass the exam again. Barnabas went there, but it is interesting that the Holy Spirit tells us to follow Paul. He does not even speak of the miracles that took place with Barnabas, He does not show what happened with Mark, what kind of movement they had.

**but Paul chose Silas**...  
A very interesting person. Silas, I admire him. How could he have left the beloved Church of Jerusalem, the Apostles of the Lamb, not to be a desciple of Peter or John forever. Silas left the supreme Apostles because he decided to remain in Antioch. Perhaps they had a conversation with Paul about his destiny, perhaps prophecies were released, and he himself understood his purpose. And here begins the destiny of Silas: he was to become the Apostle of the Gentiles.

**but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.** That is, Silas achieved it to move with Paul on a missionary journey. We do not see in the Old Testament such terminology, such phrases, such blessings, which we find in the New Testament among the Jewish Apostles. Where did they get it from? The Church of Antioch raised its Apostolic traditions. We read: "being commended by the brethren to the grace of God "...

**And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches**… In faith, in power, in teaching, in spiritual gifts, in revelation, in purpose, in evangelism. This was the ministry of Apostle Paul and Silas.  
Perhaps you started from one level. But the Lord is moving you further, and you feel the call, you see the Lord drawing you. Do not lose your revelations. Do not be late for your "spiritual plane." Today I want to make a call for those who are like Silus, that you may rise. The time is coming for you to move on!

**The book of Acts**

**Chapter 16**

**The nature of discipleship (the right connections)**

Learn to keep notes from the beginning of your Christian journey. If you do not do this being lazy, then you miss your destiny. Elijah said to Elisha: “If you see how I will be taken from the earth, you will receive the anointing you ask for.” Imagine that Elisha missed this moment... He yawned, fell asleep, turned away ... But he did not let Elijah go! He did not take his eyes off him, held him by the hem, swore that he would never leave him: he needed the anointing so much.  
How badly do you want your anointing? And who knows when your Elijah will disappear? So be accurate, make decisions, pray, fast. And how can you fast if you don’t remember? If you write it down and then you pray for it, then it becomes a prophetic working material, and your sword sharpens. Hammer your sword! We need real "combat" swords!

**Then he came to Derbe and Lystra....**  
It talks about Paul and Silas, when they moved together, after Paul had chosen Silas in place of Barnabas. Some people walk circles, but nothing new happens. They simply pass the same exam: for holiness, for purity, for service, for prayer, for jealousy, for the Word of God ... They walk circles...  
After so much time, Barnabas again takes his disciple, Mark, and instead of moving with Paul to new fields, he goes again to Cyprus.  
But the Holy Spirit setts off on a journey after Paul. We don’t know what happened to Barnabas, but we are moving after Paul. I choose Paul: with his firmness, with his integrity, with his impartiality. Who are you with? With the natural or with the spiritual one? A good man doesn’t mean a “spiritual” one, a kind person doesn’t mean a “dedicated” person, a pleasant person does not yet mean “ abundant in love”. We want to be with the spiritual one!

**And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek.He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.**

Came to Derbe and Lystra! Before you find a true disciple, you have to come somewhere and go through something. Today I continue searching for disciples. There are people who experience the same things in the Spirit that you experience, they grasp the same thing as you. I have this kind of people in the brethren, even as far as Europe. Those who have spiritually caught the message, and they remain forever connected with me in spirit. We are in our vineyard, in our garden. I do not boast in another man's lot and I will not preach in a another place with such authority. But this is our lot.  
There is one elderly sister who is connected with me in the Spirit, she lives in Europe. The Lord gives me powerful revelations through her, deep, very personal. I know that such revelations will not be given by God to people who are indifferent to you. He will show it only to those who are so identified with you that perceive your pain as their own. And these are the most precious vessels. These are personal intercessors. When such a soul intercedes for you, it is a tremendous power, it is greater than the prayer of hundreds of people. This is connection in spirit.  
An Apostle is always searching for disciples. Therefore, if you feel a deep attraction to the highest level of the princes of God, if you want to be involved in the Apostolic destiny, if you feel an unquenchable fire - to be part of the chariots of the noble people of God, you will be found. Start praying that the Lord may give you a sign for the calling, pay the price in fasting and prayers. Cry out like Timothy, who was waiting for his hour and ended up with Paul. One Eastern wise saying says: "When the disciple is ready, the teacher appears."  
Do not seek popularity, do not seek success, as the world does. Start seeking for God's true treasure, real gold, not rust.  
One brother testified that he took gold to heaven, and it turned into asphalt there. Earthly gold is so dirty that in heaven it will be like asphalt! But in heaven gold is like "clear glass."  
I think that Timothy reached his hour. He worked, searched, abode. The brothers testified of him that he had received faith from his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois. Paul recalled not only the testimony of Timothy, but also his tears.  
Paul recalled his tears! Did you show tears to your teacher? Timothy did, and Paul recalled it. I would like to see tears in prayers, I would like to see brothers who cry. But I see today some indifference, when people are praising the Lord, as the brothers are tormented, languishing ... This is not like Timothy. Timothy cried and broke.  
Start looking for something bigger in fasting and prayer. This is the cup of your secret prayer with tears. No tears will pass by this account. David says, "You have counted my tears." This is the only way you can receive a call, and the Lord will connect you with other people. You will leave the place of your babyhood and will have a different destiny. You do not choose your ticket - the Lord calls you.  
I want God's disciples to rise, who will be involved in a glorious destiny. I believe in what I'm talking about. As the prophet said: “Come, I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” Today I am looking for these disciples, not mine – God’s, so that we are involved in one Lord’s cause. Some of you already know that God has determined you to become a disciple. The Lord is calling you more than a hundred times a day. Calls, calls, calls! The Lord is knocking at your heart: “Wake up, My son! Wake up, I am calling you! ”  
You’ve got to reach somewhere to find a good disciple. Apostle Paul saw such a man. Raising disciples is a huge work. You can simply recruit leaders and say: “We will meet on Mondays at 6:30 pm”. It is not difficult. But this doesn’t mean that disciples will gather. They are simply attendees, participants of the seminars. I can call you disciples, and you will say: “Yes, I am a disciple!” But this is a hoax, do you understand? And how much of this thing is there in the Body of Christ? Psychology and philosophy in its purest form under the Christian soul-care issue ...  
We need to return, cling to the clean source, because we need real discipleship and real disciples, we have to go back to basics.  
Paul found such a disciple, and this was worth going to Derbe and Lystra! Because Timothy became part of Paul’s destiny to the end of his journey! Paul went for Timothy to Derbe and Lystra, and then Timothy went with Paul to the very beheading, to Rome itself! He became a loyal son and was connected to Paul for the lifetime. It is worth, for the sake of such a disciple, to make a long journey. It is not evaluated with any money, any contributions. A true disciple — son or daughter — is for a lifetime.  
  
I see young people today, whose "eyes are burning." Pray for them, because young people is a high-speed sign, an instant indicator of life. Wherever there is life, young people immediately bloom. A church without youth is a church without a future. I want to always see teenagers among us, boys and girls, students, because this is a sign of life. When you move with young people, you don’t have to push them for a long time. They are not tired of life, they are sincere and quick for emotions, you don’t have to repeat things to them - they have a good memory.  
I once asked our young people: “Who wants discipleship? Come on, respond!” They took this seriously, some gave an answer to this call in a day or two, some in a week. They realized that if they were connected with me, this would be serious. I said, "We will do what the Lord tells us. You must be ready, these are serious things". And then I added: “You have expressed your desire, this is good. Now write why you want the discipleship.”  
This is already an exam! If he says: “I don’t want to write this!”, - it means he is lazy, proud or cunning. Such are not welcomed. Good, obedient sons and daughters are welcome. They write you an answer in obedience, and your heart rejoices and enjoys that the person knows the Lord. But even among the thirsty ones selection is needed: if they have put their names on the list, this doesn’t mean they are students. These are young people who have put their names for discipleship. But some of them are true disciples.

**Principles of Discipleship**

Look for people involved in your shared destiny! We have a corporate destiny. Our common commitment is to serve the Lord. We have connected our destiny with this. If someone decided just to stay with us part-time, he will then leave such a church anyway. But if someone has connected his destiny with this movement, with this brethren, which is sharpened for mission and for serving people, then our destinies will more and more tightly intertwine with each other.  
Some people come to church, but do not even come up to say hello. This is bad. Come over, show your eyes, look openly in the face. Make notice of yourself before the Lord! Greet everyone at least once and shake hands. Why are you hiding? Why don't you do this? Do you have something in your soul? Sin? If not, then what is the reason? Are you meek? This is not meekness — this is cowardice, hypocrisy, or cunningness. Come near! Love casts out all fear! There is anguish in fear, and one who fears is not perfect in love. If you love, show up! We want to be the people of victory.  
So, Paul found a disciple Timothy. And we will highlight four bright signs of a disciple.  
First. A disciple abides in the Word. It is written: “If you abide in My Word, then you truly are My disciples.”  
Second. A disciple has a prayer life. A true disciple has overcome himself, his flesh, his lifestyle. If a person’s lifestyle replaces prayer, because there is a lot of fuss and bad habits, he is not a disciple. It must not be so! You must open up your book, put a “brick” of relationship with God there and then close it. All the rest should be subject to the main thing - to have fellowship with God. All the rest is secondary. A disciple breaks through to spend time with God every day; he conquers this territory and does not allow the enemy to steal a single minute.  
Nothing - neither a sick child, nor fatigue - cannot move aside your time with God, because it is holy!  
A disciple sets his time with God in the day and fights for it. Any state knows how important the protection of its territory is, and the army will not allow the enemy to take possession of even a small part of it. This is how you need to fight for your time with God. There is a fierce battle going on. If you now set it for yourself - to spend at least an hour of time with God - then you will see what a fierce battle will begin in your life. Persecution, attacks, deprivation, maybe illness will crush down ... You will see how the devil is hunting this time, he wants to stuff it with bustle.  
Set your time with God and do not touch it!  
Third. A disciple has a ministry in church. A true disciple cannot but be involved in church. There are people who speak of themselves: "I am a disciple of Jesus Christ." But at the same time they are not in the Body.  
I like the way brothers in Brazil do, in a church with about a million members. If such a person comes to them and says that he has a dream, a revelation or a prophecy, then the ministers answer him: “Dear brother or sister, you are not in the church, you are not moving in the Body of Christ. We do not see you at our meetings. God cannot use you for the church. Therefore, we will not even read what you have written. Because the gifts are for the Body, and you are a sick member. God will not use you, supporting your illness. " See, what kind of courage and the royal understanding those brothers have?  
A true disciple serves in the church; it is in this particular local church that he has responsibility and ministry. If you want to be a real disciple of Jesus Christ, you need to carry ministry in your church.  
The fourth sign of a disciple is the spirit of evangelism. A true disciple blazes with love for the perishing world. He can not be indifferent   
to sinners, he cannot be so spiritual as to be indifferent to the lost. Do you know why? Because he is a disciple of Christ, and Christ so loved this world that He gave His life. How can you be a disciple of Christ who died for people and not love people? This is a false, sectarian teaching. A true disciple is obsessed with the spirit of evangelism.

These are the four attributes of a disciple. If you want to be a disciple of Christ, you must abide in the Word, have a prayer life and ministry in the church, and be filled with the spirit of evangelism.  
I think Timothy had it all. " a certain disciple was there, named Timothy." Timothy was already a disciple before he met Paul, but he was not in the fullness of his calling. He had an initial base, he was a good brother. He had the faith passed by his mother and grandmother.  
He also had another important quality - good testimony from the brothers. What kind of testimony from the brothers do you have about yourself? It is very important! You can say: “All that matters to me is what the Lord testifies of me!” It is not true! These are empty words! Because it is written that if those who rule over you greive for you, this is unprofitable for you. It is written what the church binds on earth, will be bound in heaven. You depend not only on God, but also on people. You should please not only God, but also God's people. He who rejects does not reject man, but God.  
What is the testimony about you in church? Some would stand with their eyes lowered, or they would turn away, because the testimony about them is “not very” ... There is nothing to testify about someone at all, it is better not to testify about the other one, another walked well, but now walks bad...  
What kind of testimony do you have in your church? Are you faithful? Are you dedicated, zealous, holy, are you clean? Someone said: imagine your funeral (do not be afraid of such things, these are good, useful arguments), what would people say about you? What have you left behind? Who would come to your funeral?

**Serving the local churches**

**Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.**  
Paul recognized Timothy, spotted him out. He revealed in a small community. Paul saw a great destiny in this young man. See how it is written: “Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of Jews. "  
The parents had not done this, but Paul, the spiritual father, circumcised him and brought him into destiny, where his physical parents were unable to take him. Thank God that Timothy’s grandmother and mother were believers. A true teacher, mentor, has more power than parents. A true prophetic person has more authority than a mother and father. Apostle Paul used this authority and weight. What mother and father were unable to do Paul did: he circumcised Timothy. We must give our children to the anointed ones and not be afraid to do it.  
Why did Paul take Timothy? Because he saw that if staying here, this boy would not develop. The Apostle was to advance Timothy maximum in his destiny. Therefore, he circumcised him, that is, fixed him new wings so that he could walk through to the Jews, and moved Timothy into the kinglike destiny.  
To the end of the days of Paul's life, Timothy went with him, did not lag behind. Even when Paul was in prison, Timothy served him, he was in the prison with him, and then he remained after Paul and became an Apostle. Timothy carried this anointing. This was a man who once living with his parents and grandmother remained faithful as a disciple.  
If you make an effort, God will not pass by. He will “catapult” you to another place, so work faithfully, as for the Lord! Pray the real way! And your time will come! Your John the Baptist will send you further, and you will go, because nothing can keep a man of God from his destiny! Nothing will hold!  
God will take you where you don’t want to go. Therefore, Paul takes Timothy and passes him the gift of ministry. The Apostle took a disciple and made an Apostle out of the disciple.

**And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.**  
Apostle Paul had three ministries: he had an assignment for Israel, and, as was his custom, he went to the synagogues. Today, the church, which has the teachings of Paul, should not only be partial to Israel: it should be connected with her.  
Second, was his ministry to the churches: “they delivered to the faithful the decrees to keep”. And third, he preached to the world.  
Three paths that were connected in one in the ministry of Paul — Israel, the Church, and the world. The Apostles carried the decrees taken in Jerusalem to the Gentile world through all their network of churches, because they came from Antioch. What faithfullness!  
I admire Apostle Paul. Those were the true Apostles, there was no competition there! Those were the churches of Apostle Paul, he could create his own union of churches, but he did not do this and carried only what the Apostles had decreed. We must do our work honestly! Carry revelations honestly and stand as we together accept and decide to stand. Do not search some place on the side!

**So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.**  
The result of Apostolic grace is the prayerful church. Here's how to pray for your churches: “Strengthen our churches in faith, give growth!”

**Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.**  
So, an obstacle arose. They had planned as we plan with you. They thought: “Asia is a big land, there are no churches, the Apostles did not reach here. Bare field. That’s it, now it is ours, we will conquer it. ” They came up with a good plan.

**Guiding Revelations (guided by the Spirit on mission)**

**And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”**  
What a wonderful Holy Spirit! We must accept obstacles from God, learn to obey God's way, step back, humble ourselves. This is very hard. We know that later Paul returned to Asia, and the Word of God grew throughout Asia through him, but then it was not the time. We must accept limitations from the Spirit and stop until the time comes.  
  
**Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.**  
Paul had a missionary mindset. The dream about a Macedonian man - it was the language of revelation of the Holy Spirit. Why wasn’t there a pure prophecy? The Apostles had a missionary vision of the world. They immediately realized that this dream was a call.  
I want us to receive this dimension, so that we can see everything in the spectrum of missionary work. I like it how they teach in one missionary course that God Himself had become the first missionary, sending His Son on mission. Jesus is the second missionary going on mission. And the Holy Spirit is the third missionary supporting the one who is going.  
A missionary church supports those who go on mission; it provides prayer and financial support. We must have this kind of thinking!  
They saw a dream and realized God was sending them to Macedonia. They did not send this dream to Jerusalem to be interpreted by the Apostles. We need to achieve it ourselves to have interpretation.

**Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next *day* came to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.** The route of the Apostles was built by revelation. They received a revelation about Macedonia and immediately went to Samothrace, from there to Italy (Neapolis), and from there to Philippi. It was the Greek empire, the city of Philippi was named after the father of Alexander the Great. It was a great city, but had already become a colony of the Roman Empire, as at that time it had already conquered those territories.  
The Apostles were moving in the right direction. They passed through Neapolis, entered Philippi ...“ And we were staying in this city for several days,” - several days of inactivity, but the Apostles came there. Put yourself in their place. You need to stay at some place, find food. They walk, burn in the spirit, await.

**And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there.* Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us.* She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us,* saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.**  
The experience of preaching to the open hearts. They preached by the prayer house, evangelized by the river. When this woman had opened her heart, what a bold decision the Apostles made - they immediately baptized her. I like it so much! But in order to baptize immediately, you need to see such faith as that of Lydia. She heeded in such a way that she didn’t just get baptized immediately, but also invited them to stay in her home. The boldness of Apostles manifested in this baptism and in their immediate consent to stay at the new convert’s place. It was a risk! This is the Apostolic courage in church planting!  
In what spirit will you enter the cities? Go in homes! When you get into a home, you will see everything: problems of this family, demons... You will be able to heal people, signs will be released, because God has brought you there for this.  
Once in Cambodia we broke through into one remote village, it took us many hours and much effort to get there. But within one visit a church was born there. "Can a country be born in one day?" – It can! In this Cambodian village we came to a house where there were two dying people - a husband and a wife. The grandmother who met us begged to do something with them. And we healed them in Jesus' Name! Demons began to come out of them, they vomited, and they were completely cleansed! This whole family accepted the Lord as their Savior!  
We were walking back from this village and kept silent because we were visited by the Angelic anointing. The reverent presence of God's glory was with us. When after many months I returned there again, there was already a church, and at night they gathered several families to listen to the Word. Men, women, children. And then we prayed for them, and they receved grace and empowerment. Move forward, expecting miracles and signs!

**Revelation of darkness (ministry of deliverance on mission)**

**Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.** This is how the ministry of deliverance happened. When God's glory is moving, resistance arises.  
When I first believed, I realized that wherever God's glory appeared in a special way, demonic powers were also manifested. The Lord was teaching me at once about the demonic world.  
If you move with “open eyes,” you will see demons that cannot but manifest in the presence of God's glory. That way there appeared this woman who was following the Apostles.  
Today there is a need for deliverance of people and sound doctrine of casting out demons. We are not looking for demons, but the church must have this kind of ministry. When a certain vision and maturity rises, then the responsibility to cleanse people will also rise. In churches with many unpurified defiled people the worship is quenched. Lunatics, people with dirty dreams, people involved in pornography or light magic, such as horoscopes, - this is all defilment of the church.

People with sharp prophetic spirit may feel demonic presence. When a strong releasing anointing comes, you can feel the evil that reveals right in the meeting place. You can see that the spiritual people who have just been with you hate your anointing. The anointing does two things: it causes one to fall in love with it (and this is also dangerous, it releases a royal kind of attractiveness) or causes you turn away. People who walk in defilement hate anointing. They love you, but they hate your anointing. They love your family, your lovely children, but they hate it when you go out of yourself in anointing, because it reveals their essence. We need ministry of deliverance.

That is why the Apostles were stoned, but we are not. The Apostles walked in the unveiled anointing. When they came, Jesus Himself came in them. And it was impossible to hide Him! If you saw Apostle Paul, you saw Jesus.  
Today we need to come to villages, towns and cities and release our churches, our worship, our prayer meetings and services in such a way that these are not just pleasant concerts, but the open work of God's Word! The coming fire of awakening will cause the need of understanding of spiritual warfare. How does the enemy work? He suppresses life. The work of the enemy is aimed at supressing, he wants to conseal the appearance of God. He doesn’t want the child to be born, but wants him to die in the womb: he doesn’t want the church to release life and suppress it in every way.  
He also distorts the accents. He drives us away from the right goals, engages us in conflicts and bustle. We can compete with each other, quarrel, then make peace, ask for forgiveness, grieve ... That way he leads us away from the goal: from the appearance of God's glory. The enemy takes us into social activity, makes us waste our time on empty things.  
He also defiles the saints. Wrong visits on the Internet: porno sites, worldly films, melodramas ... And after that such people shout at the devil: “Get out!” But nothing happens. There are things that are an abomination in the eyes of the Lord, it is not appropriate for His pure eyes to watch atrocities: the occult, murders and fornication. If you want God, your eyes mist be bright and hate sin.  
Attacks of the devil can crush down and destroy the faith of the saints. I have the knowledge that even car or other accidents can be attacks of Satan. There are serious prophets who passed into eternity as a result of accidents. I personally believe that many of them were exposed to demonic attacks. No wonder the Word of God teaches us to always be awake. Why be awake if God controls everything? But why does Apostle Paul write: "... Satan hindered us?"  
If Satan were under complete control, why would we need to pray? Why does Jesus say: “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation”? Because man is entrusted with an area of ​​freedom where he is principal. When you don’t watch, when you are in the enemy’s territory in your mind, and you stand on it with your feet, then he has access to you and your home.

A strong arm of persecution and oppression - these are also Satan’s attacks aimed at opposing God's work. He wants to stop you. If he manages to scare you, he scares you; if he manages to distract - he does that, he draws you into other things so that you don’t reach God's glory. Get busy with your own things, pray at the meetings, pray for prosperity. All of it doesn’t harm him. But he hates it when you save souls! He hates it when people get water baptized, when the church is praying for revival, when the church is walking in the calling of the Holy Spirit, when the unveiled anointing of the Holy Spirit is obvious in the church. And he will do his best to stop the movement of God.  
Today there is a need for pillars in the Apostolic Church, showing an example of perseverance and mature faith. Apostle Paul cast demons out of this woman, and a revolution began in the spiritual world, movement began.

**But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.” Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.**  
Watch God's move carefully. It talks here of spiritual war of the territorial level. These are the principles of spiritual warfare.  
There is a level when possessed people go to church. The devil defiles the church through this, mocks her. We must not give place to that! First of all, in our personal lives: in our homes there must not be a single indecent thing, not a single erotic magazine, horoscope or amulet, even if it is of gold.  
And there is a church level of spiritual warfare, when a congregation is involved in spiritual battle! We need to enter mature understanding of spiritual warfare!

**Breakthrough through the spirit of praise (the power of praise)**

**But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.**  
You keep in mind that the Apostles came to this area through revelation. Philippi was one of the cities that Alexander the Great conquered. All his life he wanted to defeat the enemies that his father could not defeat. Having had victory over Persia, he formed a powerful kingdom, which, by the revelation of Daniel, received the name of the "copper torso". Then Romans conquered Greece, and the Roman kingdom became the “iron legs” in the revelation of Daniel. We see how Philippi became a colony of the Roman Empire. Apostle Paul traveled to such great cities. The magni ficent megacities, which at that time were the capitals of vast regions. Paul walked among those cities, religions, idols, and was not afraid, but was ready for battle.  
Today we have no less idols in our places. These may be modern diabolical masks, but the forces behind them are the same.  
The Lord sent Paul and Silas to Macedonia. They come there and something happens: they get to prison. “Christian fatalists” could say: “How is that? It means the Lord did not send them." You probably heard such opinions. Perhaps, you yourselves said not once, that when the Lord blesses you, everything should go smoothly.  
But it was not so with Paul. The Lord sent them to Macedonia. And there they get into dungeon. The Apostles had a very deep knowledge, they understood that Jesus had passed through the death at Calvary, and before he was resurrected, He had to die. They had this knowledge - that the sufferings were given for obedience. The Apostles are going through the dungeon and what are they doing? They begin to praise God. If you don’t have this knowledge, you will not praise the Lord. You will pleed that He may set you free . You will ask: “What for, Lord?” Or “Why?”, Or “Forgive us if we did something wrong”. But the Apostles had none of those questions, they had the right knowledge. They shouted and praised, and all the prison guards and prisoners heard them. And their feet were in the stocks ... It was a ponderous decision: to release themselves in praise. You know what that is? That is to face death and smile. They had no guarantee they would not be executed tomorrow. They were simply praising the Lord.  
"And all the doors opened!" This is the gaining of a spiritual breakthrough. Look, three things happened through this breakthrough.  
First: all the doors opened. The devil closes the Apostles in the stocks, puts them down to rats in the basement. But they begin to praise and release a breakthrough! I like it. Aren’t they bolted? Aren’t those ancient locks?! ALL the doors! I think there were twenty, thirty, fifty doors. It is written “all”, so all the doors opened. Isn’t that amazing?  
Second: everyones’s chans were loosed. That's it .... They did not fall, but loosed. When a spiritual breakthrough comes, prisoners can go free. We make this breakthrough through glorifying and praise, we break through the spiritual world, and it is easier for prisoners to get out. There is a breakthrough, and the bonds are loosening. They did not fall, but were loosed.  
And third: the guard wanted to kill himself. Those people who considered themselves guardians, those individuals, those perhaps demonic forces, were struck down.  
Today we must place a very serious emphasis on worship and prayer. I want to address the worshipers: you have a very serious mission - the church must proclaim into the spiritual world, it should move Heaven.  
We made banners in our church and painted the real emblems of the Israeli tribes. I said to the banner bearers: “Learn all the prophecies to the tribe, which your banner represents, and during the worship don’t just wave, but proclaim the prophecies that God said in the Bible to this tribe.” And people who wave the banners prophesy into the spiritual world. During the worship we proclaim the glory to the living God Who is in heaven, and there, around His throne, thunder, earthquakes, lightnings and voices. Can you imagine what is happening in heaven? Do you think the Lord is sentimental and loves soft music? His voice is not quiet, it is written that it is like the sound of many waterfalls, like the voice of mighty thunders! And when God speaks, everything shakes. God said that “great is the number of those who proclaim His Word”. Who are "those who proclaim"? Those are prophetic churches. If God speaks into the Body today, then those who are watchfull will speak the same. And if you are set to the same frequency, you will hear from other prophets the same things that you receive yourself. We often experience this. God said: " A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken!  
Who can but prophesy?"  
This is what happens in worship: we proclaim into the spiritual world, and changes happen. This is exactly how Paul and Silas were singing. Their voices began to intensify to the point that the stones of the prison vibrated. They began to feel that their voices were being transformed. And the voices were pouring already out of the spirit, out of the womb. Everything began to shake, move, and then their voices turned into an earthquake! Because "the voice of the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon."  
Shout with the voice of the Lord! Echo the voice of the Lord! Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! In times of fear, suffering, and pressure we need a breakthrough kind of worship. And its role can not be overestimated. The breakthrough comes through perseverance of the spirit.  
Recently we were attacked in various ways. And I don’t remember where I came, but one sister met me there. She burst into tears: “Brother, I saw you, and immediately my tears flowed. How is it that you stand so? My brother, stand, don't fall, stand.” Someone must stand that everything may stand. Are you standing? Can one rely on you? Are you a pillar?

**Apostolic authority in proclaiming the Word**

We need prayer with authority. As a result of the Apostles’ prayer and praise an earthquake happened. The perseverance of their spirit unleashed faith. How do we pray? Just asking with fear or proclaiming a promise with faith in mercy? The faith of Abraham was that he did not stagger. Today we must be able to pray with authority! And the earthquake came as the Lord's favor. God agreed with the Apostles. He agreed with their spirit, agreed with their song. He agreed and shook the ground! The result was the salvation of the family, the beginning of a whole church.  
  
**But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”**  
Where have we heard these words? These are the words of the Apostles of the Lamb. And when Peter preached, the Jews spoke the same words. But Apostle Paul did not use a technology; he released the truth of God. The guard said the same thing that thousands of people shouted in Jerusalem: “What should I do to be saved?”  
Apostolic preaching was released in suffering. This guard had such a deep level of need that his spirit cried out: “What must I do to be saved?” So the pious Jews shouted. And what was in the heart of this Gentile jailer who with his hands put the Apostles into the stocks and then guarded them? What was in his heart if the deep cry came out of him with the same words: “What must I do to be saved?” I want to wish to us today such a level of Apostolic preaching that calls forth the spirit from the depths, that the same words are spoken by pious Jews and Gentile jailers. I desire that after our preaching at evangeliztions, people would shout, “What must I do to be saved?” How should we preach, so that people shout these words? Sometimes we preach in such a manner that for the listeners it is almost a favor they do to Jesus, saying the words of repentance prayer after us. Where did we get such a sample of preaching when we beg a person to repent, while the sinner, on the contrary, must implore us to tell him how to be saved ?! There is something we have lost...  
Read carefully how the Apostles led people to repentance. Apostle Paul said: "Now God commands all men everywhere to repent." You will not find a single place where the Apostles would say: “Receive Christ.” And if they did not say this, we can also refuse it.  
I want to recommend you to study the sermons of Paul and the rest of the Apostles. Why did such deep repentance arise in people? Because the Apostles revealed the true knowledge of God.  
  
When the jaler became an eyewitness of the earthquake after the prayers of the Apostles, he seized the sword in order to kill himself. He was seized with the horror of God. But the law was replaced by the grace, the Apostle said: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Praise the Lord for this! See, what important truths we draw from these passages.  
I wish everyone to pray that the Apostolic Preaching returns to us, that God's voice may sound out of our depths and call forth, as response, the depths of sinners, who shout, “What must we do to be saved?” Let us learn to preach the Good News in this way!  
Sufferings release the depth and power of the Word of God. When the church really suffers, it really begins to preach. It carries the precious Word of God.  
Everything becomes so cheap, “sublimated,” easy, when we just receive Jesus and then go on, as if nothing has happened. But the Apostles preached the Gospel as the greatest treasure, and today we must appreciate deservedly what the Lord has done for us.  
When you say something sacred to someone, you do it very seriously, looking into the person’s eyes, step by step pronouncing precious words, revealing the precious information. You will weigh each word because you value your message. But how do we talk about God? With depleted theses that we have learned, but they don’t work? Or do we truly convey to people the greatest value of our lives? Do you understand? Let's reconsider the way we preach Jesus Christ.

**Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.** What a night that was! See how many things happened! First, the Apostles sang a song. Then they rescued the jailer from death, and he invited them to his home. Imagine it was already well past midnight and the jailer takes the prisoners outside: this is death for sure! They had to quietly go to the jailer’s home. Then the guard washed their wounds, because the Apostles were beaten with rods ... Then he fed them and was immediately baptized with all his household.  
This was work over the whole clan! Take it for yourself: you don’t pull one person out of context and make him an enemy for his relatives. We want people to get saved with their whole houses! All this happened within one significant night, what an acceleration! The church has begun!  
It was namely this man that Paul saw in the vision. It was his spirit shouting: “What must I do to be saved?” He called them in a dream. Think of the ability of a human spirit! Apostles, being missionaries, caught the call of the sinner. A missionary catches, he, like the “Divine Locator,” hears suffering with his spirit, understands where the Lord is calling. That's why I tell our missionaries: “Write seventy cities for yourself, and forty of them will signal “SOS”- you will see these names in a dream, and you will receive guidance on where to go.”  
Why did the Lord not tell the Apostles straight: “Go to Macedonia?” Because He has incredible depth and accuracy. The Apostles were sharpened for the missionary ministry and immediately understood that God was calling them. The same thing happened with Patrick of Ireland, when the Irish came in visions and were calling him.  
When the Apostles had done this work, do you know what they did? - Returned to the jail. These are people! This is power! Jesus is Lord! They again "got" into their stocks.

**The authority of the saints over the system of Babylon**

**And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, «Let those men go.» So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, «The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace».**  
And it seemed, that was it, thank God, a breakthrough came. “But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, *and* have thrown *us* into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out”(Acts 16:37). So the Apostles had returned into bondage.

**And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. Then they came and pleaded with them and brought *them* out, and asked *them* to depart from the city.**

What was wrong with the Apostles? Were they proud people? No, this is Apostolic influence! Apostles correct the corrupt authorities, they are not afraid to escalate the conflict. Today there is an established opinion that Christians should be so “smoothed out”, “without sharp corners”, very flexible, because they abide in meekness. But meekness and cowardice are two different things. Those were the meekest people on earth, but they forced the corrupt authorities to bend and put justice on a pedestal.  
I want to declare that Apostles make influence on the city structures. Apostles are not afraid to aggravate the conflict with lawless authorities. And Paul's strategy was to multiply the Gospel of justice, and he multiplied his influence on structures and authorities.  
Do you understand? Being as if “nobody”, he simply had, for example, a Russian passport, he made an impact. Apostle Paul was a Roman citizen, his religious education had no weight in the Roman Empire. But there was the power of the Holy Spirit in him, the power of Jesus, and he was not afraid. He manifested justice and the power of the Kingdom. He had retained the dignity, the kinglike spirit of the servants of the Lord. And he also used his civil rights.  
Think, reflect. What is the influence of your church in the city today? What does she do in it? How does she stand for righteousness? How does she break through when she's under pressure? Does she bend, bow under, fear, run away? Apostles stood firm.

**So they went out of the prison and entered *the house of* Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them...**  
That is, the Apostles did not fulfill the imposed will of the authorities, who wanted to hide their crime, they fulfilled the will of God. And they had the strategy of the Great Commission, that is, the mission.  
Initially, they went to visit the brothers, to see how they were doing. So they have visited brothes, haven’t they? They have both won Lydia and changed the city. Probably, they had to repair the jail afterwards, and the rumors probably spread that the church had begun with an earthquake. That is power!  
I like the end of this chapter: "... and departed." Where? Farther on. Dear brothers, go farther on. If you have gotten sour and sat up - rise, shake off the dust, let the movement of God begin in your life!  
We come to the last chapters of the book of Acts. How I desire that the Acts don’t end! I want to live in this, to move with Paul, I do not want to leave him. We move with him and get real empowerment that works. All this is the living breath, because it is the Word of God, and the Word of God abides forever.

**The Book of Acts**

**Chapter 17**

**Principles of generating Apostolic beginnings of the network.**

**Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying,* “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.” And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.**

Apostle Paul passed through Amphipolis, Appolonia and came to Thes-salonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. He came to Thessalonica to the “bare place”, and the church was born there through Paul, it was his child. And what love he treats them with: one of the tenderest epistles by Apostle Paul, which can be read, is addressed to the Thessalonians.  
This is one of his beloved churches. The Apostle says: “Your faith has become so well known that we no longer need to tell about you: wherever we come, people themselves testify of your love.” Such level was reached by the Thessalonian Church in their faith. Here we read about the birth of this church. Paul, as his custom was, came to the Jewish synagogue. And it became loved by the Apostle.  
I want to give you a key right away. Any key has notches, they are the secrets of a key. The master takes a workpiece and makes a unique pattern of notches on it, so that, eventually, it becomes a key.  
There are secrets here. We need to “decode” the Acts so that the empowerment takes place completely. This material will begin to work prophetically and activate you if you read in parallel the letters of the Apostles that are addressed to the churches and correspond to the given time in the book of Acts. When you study chapter 17 of the Acts, read the 1st and 2nd Letters to Thessalonians. Penetrate into the Apostle’s attitude, how gently he communicated with the Thessalonians. He says these words: "as a nursing mother ... we were gentle among you," "we might have made demands as the Apostles of Christ, but we were gentle and quiet among you," " these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me”, "laboring day and night," "working all-heartedly and praying," and so on. Paul releases the spirit of an Apostle so gently that we admire him and want to imitate him and not the contemporary models.  
This is why in our missionary school we analyze the image of Apostles, taking as an example namely Thessalonians and Apostle Paul. “Neither did we use flattering words, nor a cloak for covetousness,” - Paul spoke straightly with the truth.  
  
**Paul, as his custom was...**  
This means that Paul already had customs. That is, Apostolic traditions of evangelism were born. He was going into the Gentile world, but there he found bases, the so-called, forposts of faith. And those were synagogues. Places where faith in the true God was kept as close as possible, because God, Jehovah, Yahweh, was studied in these synagogues. They also believed in the Messiah, only they hadn’t recognized Him and crucified. Those were such islands of truth. Maybe not transferred into the new, but they were there.  
Paul, as his custom was, began his work from those places. Why was he not loved there? Because he took people who were really waiting for the Messiah out of there. Many were converted from Judaism, and also the Gentiles who attended there were converted.  
Paul preached three Sabbaths in them. Look at the patience of the Apostle! It makes almost a month that he was staying in Thessalonica.  
Thessalonica was a very important city, it was a cross-cultural, port center. And it was also a strategic place in the ministry of Apostle Paul, so he wanted to plant a church there. I don't think he just lived there for three weeks. He worked, prayed, fasted. That is, the work of evangelism was accomplished, but the Holy Spirit focuses attention on the synagogues, because, apparently, from there he decided to move to the birth of the church. It is said that three Sabbaths Paul spoke from the Scriptures. I think the Scriptures were very important, because without the Scriptures no one would listen to him.

**Apostolic preaching**

**explaining and demonstrating**...  
He revealed the Scriptures and demonstrated to them, "that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead." Why did he do it? Because then he compared the Messiah from the Scriptures with Jesus of Nazareth, who suffered and was resurrected the same way. Paul was "demonstrating."  
Mark this for yourself. Today we are researching the Apostolic preaching in the religious world.

... **This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ**  
Look at what Aapostolic preaching is like. With it he came to synagogues and revealed the meaning of the Scriptures to the listeners. It is very important. Therefore, if you come across Judaism, maybe even in Israel, in the synagogue, or meet people with Jewish blood, remember how Paul revealed Christ. This is a very important structure of preaching.

**Apostolic Strategies of taking cities**

Interestingly, the strategy of the Apostle was gaining momentum. It is written that Paul went to the synagogues “as his custom was,” that is, he gradually gained experience and developed his own strategy of evangelism. He walked, taught on Sabbaths from the Scripture, explained and demonstrated that Christ had to suffer and be resurrected, and that this Christ was the One whom He preached.  
What else remarkable is happening with the Apostle: he is confronted with religious structures.  
When we get to some new place, say, to a city, we want to research the churches. I am immediately interested in how much God there is in this city: how many churches there are in it, what denominations prevail, what is the largest church, what principles it uses, why it has achieved success.  
Imagine, you are going to fight with the enemy, and you are suddenly put the leader in this battle. You need to study the landscape, estimate your combat potential, see how much of the equipment, heavy artillery, infantry you have. Before you fight, you need to find out what your reserve is.  
Some missionaries come to new places and are not at all interested in how many churches there are and what they are like. This is not right. We should find out how many of our people are here, how big of a place God has in this city. Therefore, we cannot neglect the Body of Christ or rise above it, we must take all things into consideration: a wise strategist will surely weigh the resource.  
Therefore, a missionary must meet his own people right away, without getting into religious politics, but coming as a blessing: “Folks, I love you  
in Jesus and have come here not to steal sheep from churches, but to preach Christ to the perishing world. Therefore, I want to say that I am your coworker, your brother, and we are fighting on one side, that's all. ”  
Real missionaries do not get in any politics, in any competition, in any arguments. They do not allow the forces of darkness to engage them in the wrong relationship. Missionaries do not come for the sake of the church, but for the lost.  
In our brethren, we hold to such principles. Therefore, once a month we go to the pastoral meetings of the Body, maintain unity, don’t go deep into projects that take away our time and vision, but continue to preach Christ to the perishing world, showing our kindness and openness. We have our own banner, and this is the banner of missionary work, this is the banner of evangelism, this is the banner of salvation of the perishing world, and we hold it and do not change it. Because chapter 28 of Matthew and chapter 16 of Mark tell us to carry this banner to the end.  
You see, we must have the right standing status in the Body of Christ. Therefore, when I visit a city, I ask the pastor whether he communicates with the churches, and if I understand he doesn’t, then I realize that this pastor has become blind or proud, he doesn’t judge objectively.  
You cannot speak ill of the Body of Christ, because you are no better. The pastors who are assigned in this city are the watchmen on the walls, and you will not be able to influence with such an attitude to them, because the Lord counts with these people.  
If you come to an unknown city, you start as if from the very low, you should come with respect, and not shout: "There will be a powerful church here, and all of you now here are dead." And then, with the time you lose your gas and get ashamed of your words. Better not to speak, better let the Lord speak for you. It is better to quietly adjust and begin to preach. You don’t have to talk about you work, others will talk about you. You don’t have to fight for your authority, it will go ahead of you.  
Therefore, Paul went to the synagogues, he had a certain strategy. And we can learn this.

**The strategy of darkness is to destroy God's seed in its beginning (in germ)**

**And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.**Here is the result of the Apostolic preaching: "a great multitude." Those were not probably twenty-five people. What do you think how many people that is? Can two hundred people be called a great multitude?  
Imagine Paul and Silas have just been beaten, but a great multitude of Greeks came to believe. Leading women believed, that is, noble women also listened to Paul. He had such a strong anointing, and, although he was single, but he spoke, apparently, so nobly that he caused trust and favor. There was Lydia and also women from the house of Cesar.

**But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious**...  
Here they are, again. This "song" is constantly making its way on our list, so that we sing it, do you understand?

**... took some of the evil men from the marketplace**...  
See what they are doing. They don’t move on their own, because their long robes prevent, they need to take someone who is quick to move. Having taken some rabble from the market place - here they are hanging around, not working, waiting for something to eat on, - some worthless people. See what means the religious world uses? Nothing new!

**and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people**.  
But they simply were not there.

**But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. So when they had taken security from Jason…**Jason had defended the brothers, do you see? He gave security, and the brothers were released. That is, it was known about the evil people that those gangsters stood in the market place, and Jason defended the brothers, and then they were released.  
This is an old song. Envy leads the Jews to resistance. Their intention was to bring the Apostles out, to stir people against them that they stone them. But, having not found them, they drag others and trouble the people and the leaders. That's how it happens, this is devilry. We face this stuff in our city.

**Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.** Do you see? Here is the ability of the Apostles to move in a particular situation. Being beaten, they don’t kick against the pricks. They invent divine strategies.

**immediately...**That is, they understood that the conflict was increasing.

**immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews**  
And again in the synagogue! How loyal Paul is to his calling and his way!

**These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men**....  
What a wonderful anointing Paul had! Because you convert a prominent woman - the husband will come. It’s only a matter of time. The prominent will “break” him, she will be talking, and he will have to come. We have such brothers: they have come after the prominent women.  
  
**... as well as men.**  
Praise the Lord! Let's give glory to God for the men. And how many is this “not a few”? Look at the wonderful fruits Paul had! I like this synagogue of the fair-minded Jews. This is an amazing synagogue in Berea. They study the Scripture, that is, they had real believers there, reverent people. And they were fair-minded. Paul spoke to them about Jesus, and they studied.  
What wonderful people they were! They shifted from traditional structures to the living Body of Christ. Paul had wisdom, he recognized the sound grain in them, he saw real thirst for truth in them and gave them the food that was fit for them. Through this process of natural ascent into revelation, Paul led them into living faith. Praise our Lord!  
We must be the same kind of people. Recognize God-seekers in traditional churches. There are sincere believers there, we just need to reveal the Scripture to them.

**Work under the conditions of opposition**

**But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.**

We need to learn to work under conditions of religious opposition. There are times when the church is really in disfavor, and even other churches turn away. There are times when they can criticize you behind your back. There are times when religious apostates come out, pretending brothers and rebel against you. We have gone through all of this and are still going. But we must learn to work in these conditions and continue to carry the Gospel of the Kingdom - this is what we are doing here with you. Praise our Lord!  
And stay watchful! It is very important to keep your lips clean amidst this religious hunting. We must be very careful not to get involved in the wrong wars. We must know that such people use the forces of this world. Because the angered Jews went to stir the crowd, to persuade the authorities. And we must have spiritual strategies and tactics to strengthen the underground work. This way we will be able to work more effectively. We have learned not to speak out everything that happens with us. Because such is the time, and we must understand that we don’t gather crowds, but make disciples. Disciples will make their own disciples. This is why the concert type Christianity doesn’t work. Today there is a crowd, and tomorrow there is none. Today they are shouting to Him: “Hosanna!” And tomorrow: “Crucify!” Therefore, we need the disciples of Jesus.  
We need to learn the technologies of labor in persecution. We must be prepared. Prepare people to move in home groups. Find a reserved place for yourself. Find a way to multiply the church and get together somehow differently. Make combat exercises. They won't harm you. Make a month of combat exercises - if the number of people becomes less, it means that those were not the people. And whom did you raise then? Make combat exercises, absolutely serious, as if the persecution were come. Check the church for strength. And prepare a plan, a strategy. How are you going to prosper on if they take away your meeting place, if they start hunting you and so on. We are not talking empty things. But it’s good that the enemy had such a disease: he was constantly late.

**But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned**...  
They learned, and we now see. The opposition, brothers, comes from the religious world. This opponent that is constantly late keeps singing the same song, arousing, stirring up the enemies. He is not able to do anything else.  
And the strongest opposition comes from the enemy of the religious world, which uses worldly systems.

**Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea**...  
That is, they launched false information. As if Paul was going to that direction.

**So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.** Did you get it how they had tangled the enemy? Jesus is Lord! Learn how to escape spies! Look again how the brothers did it: immediately the brethren sent Paul away as if walking to the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed there — as if they were not going anywhere: “Yes, Paul has left, and we are staying, we still have doubts about where we will go." Those who conducted Paul accompanied him to Athens, in the other direction, and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him, conveyed it. Silas and Timothy got up, caught up with Paul and set off again! Jesus is Lord! Let us pray that the Lord gives us the wisdom to work in such conditions!

**Reinforcement of Evangelism ministry (everything for Evangelism)**

In Athens, Ephesus, in other cities there have always been synagogues. This is what surprises me: how the Israelis had spread so much there, there were synagogues everywhere in those cities. And Paul went to places where there was already a bridgehead of faith. But at the same time he reasoned daily with those who met in the market place. Synagogues open on Saturday, but there is still Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday, what could he do? He went to the market place and every day he talked about the Lord with those who met there!  
It was his daily work. Daily!  
Brothers, sisters, how far have we gone away from this? Imagine what kind of self-consciousness the Apostle had? He spent time in evangelism daily! Feel how it makes you sober. You and I have strayed away somewhere with our invented system, somewhere in a ditch, and have forgotten that the Acts of the Apostles give us a strategy for what we do. I want to inspire all of us - myself and you – let us evangelize. Because this will make us sober, cleansed. When was the last time you spoke to people about the Lord? Not just by chance, but, indeed, for the sake of evangelism, you walked with a stranger and began to preach to him. Let us take this principle from the Acts and began to embody it in our lives!

Some of the historical philosophers began to argue with Paul: “What does this babbler want to say? Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods.” They took him and brought him to the Areopagus and questioned him what kind of new doctrine Paul was preaching. For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.  
Paul caused genuine interest among philosophers. Here he releases the truth among the scholars and educated men. Yes, Paul himself was a very educated person, he could state and substantiate the facts theologically correct. But along with that he had something that others did not have.  
First, he preached the truth; second, he was ready to die for it, not just philosophize; and third, this truth was accompanied by miracles and signs.  
Apostle Paul did not preach only to the marginal people. Philosophers need salvation, university professors need salvation. And how are we able to preach to the elite? Do we think about this multitude of people? How do we pray for teachers, professors? At times we no longer  
believe it is possible to bring such people to Jesus. But Apostle Paul felt free to move among them. He easily rose up to their level and was not afraid. Do you know why we are afraid? Because we made Jesus insignificant.  
Where do you see the Apostolic Church asking anyone to accept Jesus?  
When you and I come to high-ranking people, it looks like some kind of foolishness, because we belittle the Gospel so much, thinking that it is not decent to speak of such things in presence of such people... The Apostles did not do so. They exalted God. Even when Agrippa stood in front of Paul and said: “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad,” Paul raised his right hand in shackles and answered him: I want you to become just as I am, except for these chains.”  
Paul boldly and openly testified of what he saw and heard about the greatness of God, about His power. The Apostolic bonds were evidence of his convictions, and not his weakness. It was a seal of his true faith. Because he was imprisoned as a criminal, but, in fact, he was there for the Word of God.  
Let's start praying for the education system, because we are afraid to approach these people. They are so smart, and we are so "stupid." But you can just pray for their personal problems. They are in need, they are sinners.  
If you are afraid to speak today about the Lord to the powerful of this world, then this is an indirect denial. You are afraid to preach to your boss because he will fire you. But he can, on the contrary, take you closer. Any boss needs a real believer. Speak to your bosses about the Lord!

**Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious ”**Do you see how he starts, what his spirit is like. Do you feel the Apostle?

**For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you.**   
Do you see the spirit of Paul? Do you know why he speaks this way? Because he is the Apostle of Jesus Christ, because he is His messenger, and His messenger and witness cannot be afraid. If he is His messenger, he proclaims Him with boldness. He takes a word about God and proclaims: “He is not worshiped with human hands… And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth " This is solid food for philosophers who deny His existence. Do you see how Paul is leading them: through creation. Follow the structure of Paul’s speech.

**“... so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,”**Imagine if a philosopher standing in a silk tunic with a golden plaque, and he has fear inside, he has problems, he needs the Word. But when we give him something different — a feeble Jesus — he despises the Gospel and leaves unsaved. He needs the greatness of God, so please, if you are a witness, magnify His Name.

**“because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**This is the whole of Apostolic sermon. What was the structure of Paul's evangelism? Creation, repentance, judgment, Jesus, and the resurrection in Jesus. He took all the philosophers along this path and “dragged” everyone to Calvary, to repentance and to the throne of judgment - in one short sermon. This is the kind of preaching of the Apostle — directness, courage, boldness, and pure Gospel; therefore, signs accompanied him. We must give everything to a repenting person as Paul gave it.

**And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this *matter.*”So Paul departed from among them.However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them**

**Tools of the Apostle - spiritual weapons (heavenly communications)**

That's how churches are planted. With no keyboard, no car, no WiFi, no packs of newspapers. Apostle Paul stands and carries the Word in obedience to God. He proclaims it to everyone, but he takes a group of people into discipleship, about 20-30 people, imparts them the Word and the anointing, empowers them with the Holy Spirit, and then, leaving the church of the Lord, oversees it and ordains the elders.  
  
Look, he didn’t have anything from modern communications, not even New Testament. This is the way Apostles move. We need to return to what we have lost. We have lost the simplicity in Christ.  
Brothers and sisters, this is so serious that we hear now. You don’t find such sermons on the Internet, but this is a pure teaching flowing directly from Scripture. We are drinking pure water. Tell me, is it not so? Shall we leave these stories just as stories? If we don't do anything about it, it's a sin to us. The Lord God is feeding us from the Acts, He is teaching us.

**After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth...**We enter Corinth together with Paul...

**And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.**

Exiled from Italy, Aquila and Priscilla, came to Corinth. We now know more about Corinth, what kind of city it was. This is a city with different religions, and Paul appears there. In Corinth there was idolatry and all kinds of uncleanness.

**So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers**.

The Apostle left something to enter the new. He left Athens. I am amazed by the life of Apostle Paul. He had nothing: no family, no wife, that could keep him by flesh. He moved as the Holy Spirit led him.  
How strongly are you attached to your place? If you are a young family that doesn’t have children yet, you can live a wonderful life full of amazing events.  
If you are a single person and you feel that you must remain single, you can live an amazing life by joining an Apostolic team or an Apostolic Church.  
Imagine, brothers and sisters, we can live our lives like Paul! You don't need anything special, you don't have to get your red deploma, you just need to find the Lord in secret so that He may send you. Ask him. I want to encourage you. New ministers must rise who shall bring this joy of God!  
One must leave something in order to reach the goal. Paul finds co-workers in Corinth. He stays with the right people and works.

**And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that* Jesus *is* the Christ.**

Silas was an amazing brother, he was in leadership of the Corinthian church. He wanted to become an Apostle. Silas chooses Paul because he saw his destiny. He moves with Paul as his disciple. Although he was also a prophet. Later on he is with Paul and Timothy. See, Paul's team is growing.

**The Book of Acts**

**Chapter 18**

**A church is planted and grows from the soil of the culture of its people.**

Why are we studying the Acts of the Apostles? – Because we want to see the principles that the Apostles held to, and take them for ourselves.  
We have already received a lot. For example, the Apostles practiced ordination with fasting; when they were sending teams, they also fasted, prayed, and did it at the right time. The Acts in the Apostolic traditions have also taught us many other things.  
We see that these are good and useful things. Today we want to take not Western but Apostolic tradition as a model . We need to accept guidance straight from the Scriptures, from the Acts of the Apostles.  
We take a close look at the way Paul moved. He was the Apostle of the Gentiles. Of all the wonderful Apostles, such as James, Peter, Bartholomew, Nathanael, I choose Paul. I do not choose Barnabas, who had a soft heart towards Mark. I still choose Paul. Because the Holy Spirit went with Paul, and He showed what Paul was doing. Barnabas went with his nephew Mark, but the Holy Spirit moved with Paul. I choose Paul and I want to see what Paul was doing.

**When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, “This *fellow* persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”**  
There are times of different proconculs, there was such a proconsul as Sergius Paul. When Paul blinded Elyma the sorcerer, the magician, who was around this proconsul, the latter got astonished at the teaching of the Lord and accepted it. Just think of the region this man was governing – what a blessing it was, because proconsul himself had received the Lord.

But with proconsul Gallio persecution began. The word of God marks this fact not without a reason. We cannot fully know how things will unfold in Russia, we can understand only part of what is happening, but we know that there are proconsuls, Gallios, in whose time the darkness is released, in order to lay hands on the Apostles. Are you here today?  
We watch the events happening in Russia today, many pastors are worried about the laws accepted, and now they are bothered about what will happen next. Is this the missionary activity, what are we doing now? But we do not look up to that, we must make it to preach the Gospel.  
There are also times when the pursecution is released against Apostles from the traditional religion. This is described in Acts as follows: "They said he worships God contrary to the law." And what is this law that we should worship God after? Tell me.  
Today we can often hear such accusations: “You are the Western church”. What is western in our church? Perhaps, our church service is a bit like the one in western churches. And our task is to study the service, in which we move, and see whether it is identical to the tradition of Apostles.

The Bible doesn’t actually teach us the plan our church service must go with. We will later look at the way Apostle Paul conducted a service. There is liturgistics of Apostle Paul’s services. Do you know what it was? When Eutychus fell from the third story, Apostle Paul continued to speak the Word until midnight. Eutychus fell down from the window, Pual resurrected him and continued in the Word till morning. That was the liturgistics of the Apostle!  
I don’t know what they had with worship there, whether they had drums, if they sang popular charismatic songs, but I know that Eutychus fell and was resurrected, and I know Paul continued the Word until morning, and this happened on the first day of the week. On Monday! Are you ready to come for another church meeting on Monday? Some of you are, and I'm happy for you.

**And when Paul was about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look *to it* yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such *matters.*” And he drove them from the judgment seat.**  
Here, this is great. Sober minded worldly people don’t want to be involved in arguments. What can I take from here? The secular world drives away the evil attacking religion. Secular people who understand nothing in religion can distinguish that people who fight against each other because of religion are not sound. And we should pray that the world will understand the delusion of false religion.  
This is happening today in Russia. The country is already buzzing that the religion doesn’t have the pure faith. Many people by nature have a reverence for God, and when they look at the life of priests, at the squabbles inside the traditional religion, they begin to doubt: not in God, but in the church. This is good.  
We do not want to thicken the screen for the church. If we live in the light, we want Revelation. And the church must live in the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It must manifest this Revelation freely.

**Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.**  
Do you see who was beating? The crowd. And they were beating the leader of the synagogue. Persecution under the new ruler released the religious movement. Yet the Word of God was true. Paul was not touched in Corinth, but another person was touched. Remember, God promised him: "They won’t touch you because I have many people in this city, and evil will not be allowed to you, just preach and do not keep silent." We followed closely, and indeed, they did not touch Paul. God kept His Word to Paul.  
**So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria.**  
I recently watched news about Syrian Christians who are going through very difficult times. I looked at the cities in which Paul moved. It is sad to see people leaving thier native places. This is now happening in countries where Paul moved. These processes are very important. Of course, the enemy defiles these lands, he moves through there, because he is in a great wrath. He is furious about all the traces of Christ, about all the children of Christ. When Christ was lifted up to the throne, the devil turned in a strong rage against the rest of the offspring of the Bride and began to release on them his muddy water. That is the picture of our day. We should be aware that the devil is in our midst in the greatest wrath.

**Ministry of families fully committed to the Lord**

**sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila *were* with him. He had *his* hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.**

Interesting that Apostle Paul had disciples before this time – they were single people - but here he finds a very interesting family. It is not written that they had children, but it is written that they were husband and wife. It was a rather interesting couple, they had a craft similar to Paul’s: they made tents.  
They were also a moving family, they moved with Paul, being in his submission: when Paul had them stay in one place, they submitted and stayed. In many places of the Scriptures, Paul greets them as coworkers. That is, they were rising alongside the Apostle.  
Today it is very important for me not only to find disciples. I look for disciples all over the world. I teach real sons and daughters who will be free from everything for the mission of Christ. I invite you: come to our Apostolic base, we will live with you, move for a few months, you will simply be in the church, your spirit will shine out. Do this: quit everything and come over, but don't get lost on this liner ship. Because sometimes you are not able to go down to the engine room. You don’t know where the engine room is? Now do it, make your way. You don’t know where the lounge room is? You don’t know where the captain's cabin is? Now do it, make your way. Study everything, move everywhere, come over and find your life.

Recently I spoke with a pastor who came to our base. I asked him: “How do you feel here?” He had already spent about a couple of weeks here. He says: “Great! I leave in the morning, come back late in the evening, and see how my spirit stretches. ”  
But there are some who come and get lost. Because they are used to doing what they were told. The pastor said: "Do this, do this." But they didn’t have their own guidence of the Holy Spirit. And when you get on the liner ship, you should be aware of everything that is happening. You have to move with all in one breath, in one rhythm. So find your life.  
Paul found Aquila and Priscilla. He saw something in these people. These were unusual people. They were free for Christ. They could exhort Apollos, they knew the Scripture. They did not waste time. And they were rising up with the Apostle, rising up into the Apostleship.  
I am shocked. In fact, I haven’t met a family that would move so freely. Today we need such a mentality: cut off from the earthly values ​​imposed by traditional Christianity. It teaches us that we must push a cart before us with "Family happiness" written on it. We push it and brag that God is with us. The happier our children and the better they are, the more God is in our lives.  
But I do not see this was the first priority for the Apostles. We don’t read anything about the family of Peter, James, John, and so on. The Word speaks very little of it. This is a Biblical tradition: not to "show off" your earthly happiness. What is described here - it is the works of God. What is proclaimed here is the fruit for the Lord, the fruit for the Kingdom, and not human happiness. And you know that one should boast of even of human happiness with wisdom.  
I have already shared what happened when we were in Termez on the border with Afghanistan. Our way there was with signs and wonders: our driver was possessed and almost died before our eyes, but we sang psalms, cast demons out of him, he repented and accepted Christ. So we reached Termez.  
We drove into the city at night and stayed with one Tajik family. And one man, who was then with us, began to boast that he had a child born. This is a good thing. But I felt something was wrong, and I saw that this family was grieved. I asked: "Have you no children?" They replied: "No." And then I took a lesson for myself that even when we have a blessing, we must have wisdom of how to release a testimony of it.  
This is why the Apostles were Apostles. We don’t read about the children of Akila and Priscilla: whether they had them or not, and maybe they were a large family. We don’t know how many children Peter had, how many James had. Therefore, we do not move human happiness before ourselves as a sign of our blessing. The Apostles were bond-servants of the Lord, fully committed to the work of the Lord. Do you feel that we are taking up the tradition from the Acts right now?  
When you were born, you didn’t choose your maternity hospital. You were born in a charismatic church. You were good. But the time is coming when you have to choose a hospital for your wife. If you were born in a bad maternity hospital, and there is a better one, you will go to the best.  
Today, certain denominations have given us a cradle. But we need to enter into the Apostolic grace. I know that it is risky, I know that it is dangerous to move the ancient landmark, but the spirit of a pioneer is calling you. The Lord is looking for people to create a new generation. He is looking for a generation of the Word that will look into the Word with open eyes, with an open spirit. It will not be afraid to do what is written. I urge you in here. In this boat.  
The Apostle chooses Aquila and Priscilla. See what he does with them:

**And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews**

Paul, who gave you the right to command a family? How is this: "left them there"? How could you leave free citizens in Ephesus? But Paul left them there. Do you know why? With the authority of the Lord given to him in the Apostolic ministry. And what I like: they stay in obedience.  
We need to see sons and daughters in family people. We often take disciples from young people or from some unorganized people, but we also need to look at families.  
What else I see in these people: they had their own business, and it was sufficient for them to relocate. They were mobile people: they were able to change cities and remain free even in such large cities as Ephesus. This is a cross-cultural city, very serious, but they could stay in it and live with their own money, fulfilling the Great Commission and remaining on the Apostle’s team. Perhaps they also assisted Paul in his provision.  
Do you see? We have a vital need in such families. Not only in those who will finish three years of the missionary school somewhere in Europe, but in those who truly move in the Holy Spirit.

**Connection with a committed one, willing to suffer and pay the price**

The Apostle leaves disciples in strategic places. It was the ability of the Apostle - to send and leave members of the Apostolic team by order of the Holy Spirit in a place until the time appointed by the Father. And they did not know how long they would stay there. They had connected their destiny with the Apostle.

I told you about Silas. I am amazed by him. He had a connection with the Apostles. In Jerusalem there were twelve Apostles, and he had attained leadership among the brothers, also being a prophet. When they needed to deliver a letter stating that the Gentiles didn’t have to be circumcised, in order for this letter to be presented authoritatively, the Apostles entrusted the letter to Silas and Judas.  
In the Jerusalem church there were all the gifts of ministry: evangelists, Apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers. Silas and Judas, the leading among the brothers, were also prophets. They went with Paul and Barnabas to the Antioch Base.  
It was the base of the Apostolic Church for the Gentile church. And while being there, Judas felt: “This is it, we have given everything”. They read the letter, prophesied, and Judas returned to Jerusalem, where his brothers were: Peter, James, John.  
But Silas saw something in Paul and didn’t want to return. He stayed in Antioch and began to experience changes.  
Once the time came when Paul said to Barnabas, "We are moving." Barnabas asked: “Shall we take Mark?” Paul answered: “No, we must be ready for death, Mark is not ready to die”. A few days later they were sitting in the stocks, in prison.  
We go not only to visit our brothers, we go to follow the Holy Spirit, so anything can await us. Mark was not ready. Barnabas said, "Well, let's raise him up." Paul refused. And Barnabas was gone. But where to? To Cyprus, he began to move in a vicious circle.  
But Paul moved to new places and took Silas with him. From that time on the life of Silas began to change. He saw that, although he had been with the Apostles in the Jerusalem Church, but with Paul his destiny changed. Silas entered the Apostolic team. Do you know why? Because he was a future Apostle.  
There we already see Silas and Paul in the stocks praising the Lord in the dungeon and making a breakthrough in Macedonia. Can you imagine what Silas had experienced?  
If he were with the Apostles in Jerusalem, this would not have happened. Therefore, we must know who we tie our destiny with. If you connect your destiny with a smaller one than yourself, you will remain smaller. If you connect yourself with the right sources, you will have what they have.  
Connect yourself with friends who are in history. I have already said that I have many friends. These are Savonarola, Jan Hus, Charles Finney, John Wesley and many, many others. I can tell their stories days and nights, because for months and years I studied their books, I’ve been friends with them, and sometimes they come to us in dreams.

**Apostolic freedom to choose suffering and death for Christ.**

**When they asked *him* to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent,but took leave of them, saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing.” And he sailed from Ephesus.**

I am greatly blessed by the freedom of the Apostle. Look, Apostle Paul is a man of the planet, he is free and moves wherever the Holy Spirit calls him to. He is not bound to stay in one place.  
I remember once our brothers asked us to give them a pastor for a house in one village, not far from the border. And when he began to travel to nearby villages, they forbade him, saying: "The pastor should be the pastor of only one church." He asked: "Let us do it, I will start three, four, five more churches." They say: "You can not, the pastor should live only in one place." Imagine, a pastor is coming down the stairs from the second floor, shuffling in slippers; he spoke his sermon, went back up to the second floor. This is how it usually happens if the pastor lives in the house where the church gathers ... But we are free. Praise Jesus for that!  
An Apostle knows the times and seasons, he is focused on his destiny, he must be in the center of events. Why? Because he is moving to Jerusalem and the Apostolic Base. As you read carefully about Paul’s attitude to Jerusalem, you will see how often he visited him.

I ask myself a question: “Was he really such a person who was culturally dependent on the city?” No. Paul was free. He never mentions anything about it. I think that he was drawn to where the hearth really was, where the Apostolic Church was.  
You know it was not Paul who became the door for the Gentiles, but Peter. God chose not Paul, but Peter to open the door. Why? Because God is fair. Peter was Simon, Cephus, He appointed him the rock and, founded the church upon this rock, and God used Peter for both Jews and the Gentiles.  
Peter opened the doors, and Paul entered them. He had to be connected with the Apostles: this is the main reason why he constantly travelled to Jerusalem. He travelled not to the stones, not to the mount Zion, not to the Mount of Olives and not to the Holy fire, which attracts crowds today. Paul strove for the Apostolic Church! Although Paul says of the Apostles: “I did not find anything special about them,”- in the sense that they are not higher than Christ, - but he had a deep conviction that at the Apostolic base in Jerusalem he received an empowerment and delight from fellowship with his brothers.  
In Jerusalem Paul found the blessing that built up his spirit. And we must be connected with the Apostolic Church, must have such an association.  
I was surprised that Paul constantly visited Jerusalem: with such a costly road, difficulties of movement, dangers from robbers. Think what the journey cost at that time - it was long, which means you could not take as much food as to eat, for example, for a whole month. That is you had to take gold or silver. There were no credit cards, there was only real money. It was a very dangerous way: one had to sail on ships, move on carts, on foot. And Paul, having such difficulties of movement, constantly visited Jerusalem.

**Connection to the place of power**

He had two places to which he always returned: these are Jerusalem and Antioch. The Apostolic base in Jerusalem - with the Apostles of the Lamb, who saw Christ alive, and where he could learn, where he received the empowerment, where he was a smaller one.  
We must also have a place where there are people who are bigger than us. We must have a connection with people who have a greater spiritual experience than we do. We must receive pastoral care from the people who empower us. We must have a place where we will be prompted where we will be corrected. And Paul went there for this reason: for someone to examine him.  
Even Jesus once sent him to the Apostles. Remember when Paul asked: "... is it not in vain that I’ve been striving"? The Spirit told him to go and test his revelation. I’m sure if the Apostles stopped him, Paul would stop. Because he was submitted. Paul came to the place where people knew God more than he did.  
The second place where he always returned was Antioch. Where people depended on his spirituality. Paul served them. Therefore, we must have a place where we receive, and a place where we give. These two places, Jerusalem and Antioch – were the most visited in the life and ministry of Apostle Paul. I like these simple words: "And he departed from Ephesus." In our interpretation: “and she departed from Khabarovsk”, “and he departed from Komsomolsk”. Be praying because perhaps the time is coming for some of you to leave Ephesus. Be praying to God that you may not “stick to soulfulness with the superglue”, that your family will not take root so hard that it would be impossible for a child to quit music school ... This is a scourge for the Apostolic dimension. There is always a way out, and even if something seems impossible, pray to God. If it doesn’t work, pray with fasting. If it’s still not working, keep praying with fasting. And if it doesn't work here, keep praying with fasting. So that the Holy Spirit may reveal to you a way out of any situation.  
When the Lord gave Hagar and the lad dying of thirst to drink, He simply opened her eyes at the spring that was already there. They didn’t have to dig a new well, God simply opened their eyes. And they saw what they had not seen before.

**And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch**.

I like the fact that Paul didn’t just come to Jerusalem, he came to the Apostles to greet them. Caesarea is not so close to Jerusalem. But he came to greet because he was passing by. Apostle Paul had the culture of the Kingdom.  
If you come to a city and there is a church there, but you don’t even meet with the brothers, I have a question: “Are they brothers to you?”  
Paul went through Caesarea, came to Jerusalem, greeted the church and went to Antioch. Paul had a high Apostolic culture.  
We are drawing straight from the Acts, we don’t need any supporting literature. We are charging now with Apostolic traditions, and not with forms of Western, Eastern or Russian Christianity. We are learning straight from the Acts!  
Today, God is looking for a generation that will learn to drink straight from the source. So, Paul received from the Apostles new strategies, sanctification, healing, because he was an Apostle, who was entering into his fullness. He needed to communicate with the Apostles.  
Every Apostle needs fellowship with Apostles, any prophet needs fellowship with Apostles and with prophets. Every pastor needs fellowship with Apostles, prophets, and pastors. An evangelist needs to fellowship with evangelists, they encourage one other. Gifts must be connected in the Body of Christ.

**After he had spent some time *there,* he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.**Back on the road again. Think about it. Apostle Paul spent many years in the Church of Antioch. He has already made several missions trips, very dangerous, where he was stoned, from where he returned barely alive.  
Apostle Paul loved the Church of Antioch, and when he returned there, it was of a different nature. There were already not only prophets and teachers. There were Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. All five gifts of teaching were in Antioch. And when Paul returned to the base, he saw that he had nothing to do there.

**New season. Work through disciples.**

**After he had spent some time *there***...  
How much is “some time”? Imagine: he came to Antioch and, after spending some time there, he left. Then, in order, he went through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.  
Here the transformation of his teachings is happening. If we go four chapters back, around twelfth - fourteenth chapters, we will see that he had a different ministry: he was constantly stoned, put to prison and so on. Why? Because he was opening the doors, he was a messenger on the front line. And among his five gifts of ministry, evangelist was going in front. He was constantly breaking through and preached to unbelievers himself.  
Now we see that Paul has established a network among the disciples throughout Asia and beyond. And as an evangelist, all beaten, all scarred, he switches to more important gifts: the gift of a teacher, pastor, and Apostle. Paul begins to build up Apostolic churches and raise ministers.  
And we see more and more often that he is not among unbelievers, he works among the disciples, although he doesn’t quit the work of an evangelist.

Apostle Paul had a strategy: find a base of faith, this is why he started from the synagogues. "As his custom was", he went in synagogues, taught there and also preached in the market place. That way he released faith. From the synagogue he “strained out” the disciples, and the Gentiles began to join him. Paul had the strategy: to find a forpost of faith. And then the Apostle changed his ministry.  
  
I want to ask you, pastors, who’ve already served, perhaps for several years, and I also say it to myself: “How much stuck am I in my ministry? How “ossified” am I not to be able to switch to another ministry?” Paul had such abilities, which we need: he could easily change places, he had his own business, he had support from other churches from the Body of Christ, he was able to make a living for himself, and even spend some time in prison with self-support. From some places he took offerings, from others he didn’t, for example, he didn’t accept from the Corinthians until the certain time, but he did from the Macedonians.  
Apostle Paul made disciples, put together teams, connected, disconnected, met people in different places, then sailed off, lived in persecutions, was able to conceal himself. He was a very flexible person. The context in which Paul lived is very difficult for us to understand. There was persecution because the Roman Empire was ruling with a merciless hand.  
It was a complicated world picture. But Paul learned to plant churches in such conditions. He learned to live in the midst of persecution, learned to breathe amidst them, to rejoice and even to encourage others to rejoice always .  
Do you hear? How could such mighty trees of the Kingdom of God grow among the stone soil? Because there was the spirit of an Apostle within Paul. And today we need this Apostolic grace, the power of the Apostolic Dimension.

**A certain Jew named Apollos ...**  
Look, God is assigning new tasks for Paul, the “disciples” can be different. We studied Timothy. This young man whom Paul had recognized and whom he took and circumcised (although he didn’t circumcise Titus, because Titus had a different calling, he was to be focused on the Gentiles, and Timothy was called to Jews as well). Paul recognized a new Apostle among the youth. He also recognized and called family people into the Apostolic team. But here Paul recognizes an eloquent intellectual, a guy named Apollos.

**A certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria**

Imagine, a man eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures came to Ephesus. It's just fantastic, everything I read right now, these three lines, but everything is in them — the man was just a “Hollywood star.” Apollos was instructed in the beginnings of the way of the Lord, and, being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him they accepted him and more accurately explained to him the way of the Lord.  
Paul had not only learned to fish himself, he had trained future fishermen. Both Aquilla and Priscilla caught "good fish." They looked at this guy and "caught each other's eyes." And then they took this young man to their place. What exactly did they do? They explained to him more accurately the way of the Lord.

**And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him**...  
See, they recognized him and allocated their attention to him.

**and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.**

Chosen Sons of God, who have not yet entered the fullness of their calling, must be recognized by the disciples of Jesus Christ. This is the ability of disciples - to discern and build up chosen vessels taken out of the heart of Christ with a great calling. We need to be able to recognize Apostolic people who have a great calling. Take them and unveil them.  
Do you know what happened during the times of Soviet Union? The Pentacostal movement came to Russia from Voronayev, of course, there were still other sources. But we know about Voronayev, that he was a Baptist preacher, expelled from Russia to America under persecution, where he experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit.  
Then he returned, after the prophecy of Koltovich, to Russia, which was in 1920-s, during the times of the great famine, and generated movement in Odessa in the Ukraine. And then a wave of awakening swept the entire Soviet Union. But what did they do? They planted new churches where people were saved.  
Voronaev preached the Gospel a lot, and a great many Baptist churches were reborn as they accepted the fullness of the teaching.  
Apollos symbolizes people who have not yet entered the fullness of their calling. We must recognize those people who need the fullness. Therefore, seek out and raise such sons and daughters.  
I am amazed at the blessings of the book of Acts. I want to have what my dear brothers had - Apostle Paul with his team!

**The Book of Acts**

**Chapter 19**

**"And the light shines in the darkness" (the work of light in the darkness of death). Battle with demons.**

**Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.**  
I knew one sister, an old woman who was a prophet and cast out demons. She had all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. She was translated several times in the air. She was already old, couldn’t walk, stayed at home, but she constantly gathered crowds of people. Young people really loved being with her. And I, too, sometimes several times a day, came to this old woman. We could pray together for three hours, and sometimes even more. Even then she taught me to proclaim the Blood of Christ. She said: "My brother, the Blood of Christ is a tremendous power." Every day this sister had the experience of proclaiming the Blood and experienced very powerful visitations.  
  
One day, after deeply experiencing the Holy Spirit, I was flying like with wings on my way from her. You know, like a first grader, jumping up with thrill, - so was I filled with the Spirit. Suddenly, in an instance I felt God's strongest presence right in the street. Perhaps, some of you experienced this: when you don’t see a single person around. I’m not shure if there are such places in Vladivostok, but, really, I didn’t see anyone.  
Suddenly a man appeared in front of me. He turned to me accutely and shouted: “Kill me!” And I answered (I saw that all this was spiritual, everything froze, as if in glass): “No. Jesus gives life!”And then he began talking to me about God. He contradicted and spoke blasphemously. He began to lift his finger high, speak with authority and the Word was inside me: “And he raised his finger and spoke arrogantly and blasphemously”. Quotes from the Bible about the devil came to me.  
I saw Satan was inside him. Those were not unclean spirits that torture and torment man. It was a calm, domineering voice, as if Satan himself was in this man. Then I was still a young Christian. And I had no experience in the ministry of deliverance or casting out. The thought arose: “Can the devil appear in flesh?” Because I saw that it was him. I don’t know whether it was, in fact, Lucifer, I will not argue. But it was a very high prince of darkness. He was absolutely calm and spoke to me as one having authority. And he spoke against God.  
I was shocked. I felt how a strong anointing of the Holy Spirit was giving me the spirit of wisdom, and began to speak with him with wisdom, carefully, according to the Scriptures. We walked with him, very slowly. It was probably a half an hour walk to home, but we walked with him for a very long time and talked about the Lord. Sometimes I could see a soul flashing through his eyes. And then I would say to him: “How hard it is for you!” He said: “Yes!” And then he again recollected himself and spoke blasphemously. Then this man began to share with me what he once experienced in the forest, how he killed one person with an ax. Not even one, he burned another man. Those were horrible maniacal things. He spoke with great authority and, as if looking into my soul. Very powerful demon. I don’t know how much time had passed, maybe even a few hours, before we began to approach my house.  
- And where do you live?  
- Here.  
- I want to go to your place.  
- No! Why is it that you want to my place ? - I then lived alone.  
- What are you afraid of me?  
- No. I am not afraid of you.  
- Then let me into your home.  
- Good.  
I wasn’t then tempted, I didn’t want to lose to the devil. And we went  
to my place. I then lived in an apartment that I got from my parents, it was absolutely empty. He came in and said: "That's how you live." He sat down, but honestly, all I wanted was to have him drink tea and leave as soon as possible. I said, "This is it, you have seen it, now you can go." He says: “No, no. Sit down.” I then took the Bible, I wanted to read something, because I had no wish to talk with him in vain. But he took it from me, jabbed his finger at random, and said: "Don’t read there, but here." I took the Bible, and he held his finger at one place of the Scriptures. I began to read: “If you want to be perfect, go sell your property, give out to the poor and follow Me.” He slammed the Bible, gave it back to me and said: “Well, what do you say to me now?” I realized that demons have very serious authority. This is a high rank demon. Very high.  
But I was a Christian who was not afraid of him. Rather, I had fear, but the power of the Holy Spirit overcame it. Maybe he was a maniac. A very strong man, although elderly, wiry, strong and very mean.

Before I belived I myself practiced occult things, even demons came and took me to fly. There was a demon who came to me nameless, gray, in a cloak. He would take me by the hand and we would fly over the city. I could go into sleep on three levels, that is, sink into the depths of dreams, perhaps down to the fourth floor. Those were immersions in the demonic world. And I saw that in this man there was a demon of very high rank. Then I said to him: “I don’t know what this means for me. I only know one thing: I love Jesus! And I will follow Him, no matter what it costs me. I don't know what you have just demonstrated to me. I only know one thing: I love Jesus! And I'm not afraid of you! Have you finished your tea? Come on, I'll take you to your house.”  
We left with him, and I escorted him to his house. Now it was my turn to speak to him, and I preached Christ to him. He said to me: “You know, I’m afraid to go to church. I have experience with the Pentecostal church.” And he told that he once was in a church baptized with the Holy Spirit, but he committed a sin: “You don’t know what I felt when I lifted one woman from a puddle; she was homeless, smelly, dirty. I took her from the street, she stayed with me, but then I myself sent her away, and therefore I can’t live peaceful now.” That is, the soul gleamed in him, and then the demon appeared back again. I brought him to his house (he told me he lived in it), right to the apartment, and continued to talk about Jesus. And the victory of light came, the victory that supresses the darkness.  
The next day I thought: “No, dear, I will not leave you like that!” He told me he lived with his mother. I went to the store, bought some food and went to “fight” for his salvation. But, sadly, no one opened to me. It was all like a fairy tale. I realized that God had taught me a lesson of communication with the demonic world. Later the Lord gave more lessons about ministry of deliverance, about the authority of Jesus Christ, about casting out demons. This is what I want to say: there is a world of demonology. And an Apostolic mature church should not be unaware of it. This doesn’t mean that we consider any phenomena demonic, or that we cast out spirits from inanimate objects, or that we see demons in everything.  
Because there are extremes in spiritual warfare. I like the title of one book: "The vain sacrifice of spiritual warfare." Indeed, there is a whole list of vain sacrifices: when people went out for spiritual warfare, without being sent, not covered by the Blood of Christ, without provided care of leaders and protection of the Church of Christ (in which they are immersed, as in a hub). And I, at times, was among them: I went out to the hills, shouted, challenged the devil for a battle - and was so badly beaten, no one would want that. I suffered losses, beatings, because I invaded in there as a bully, and not as a messenger. Do not do this! Spiritual warfare is very serious! I do not want to build up fear, but we must be serious.  
If you go out against an aircraft carrier and start shooting with a slingshot, maximum you can do is to scrape off the paint from this ship, but at the same time you will attract attention! Therefore, we need to be sent and need to have knowledge.  
There are different levels of spiritual warfare.  
The first is the ground level, when we work with posessed people. Even posession has different levels of depth. One can be obsessed, and one can be posessed. A demon obsessed person has an open “door”. From time to time we don’t recognize him. But there is a posessed one in whom an evil spirit lives. It dwells in him. Such man is a container, a dwelling place for demons. This is a different degree of posession.  
The second is the heavens level of spiritual warfare, when demonic forces control the territory. If we now looked with open eyes at the spiritual world, what is happening over the city, we would see a distinct distribution of forces in its different regions. There are places where concentration of the spirit of fornication is apparent: some apartments, networks of night clubs, etc. There are unclean spirits that support the spirit of drug addiction. There are unclean spirits associated with criminal things. Different spirits are distributed in the kingdom of darkness (although there is no such order there as in the Kingdom of light). There is chaos there, everything is built on fear, not love.  
Demons begged Jesus to drive them into pigs. They wanted to prolong their lives a little. Do you think they felt well inside the pigs at the bottom of the sea? They just didn’t want to go to the abyss. But the herd of pigs rushed into the sea, it could not bear the pressure.  
Thus, we know that spirits can be inside animals. But they want to be in human beings. A demon wants to take hostage of God's beloved creation. And dwelling in him or holding him, he prolongs his own life. Human sons are hostages. That is why the devil wants to keep or control at the earthly level. Spirits swarm around people, they work through sons of disobedience and in sons of opposition.  
It is written that some exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus, whom Paul preaches, over those who had evil spirits. The seven sons of a Jewish high priest looked out, heard, saw the Apostles doing it, and decided they would be exorcists.

**Be afraid of nothing. Be faithful to death.**

**And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus.**  
Ephesus is a big city.

**And fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord was magnified.**  
In conclusion of it all: "The name of God was magnified!"  
There is a spiritual picture of our city. But we should not be afraid. First thing: do not be afraid! Jesus appeared and said: “Do not be afraid!” “Do not be afraid. It is I”, - was the first thing that Jesus said when He came to the disciples resurrected because they thought it was a ghost. He also commanded them not to be afraid when He walked on the sea. Do not be afraid of anything and anyone except the Lord! He is your fear, Him you shall hallow. Do not fear what the Gentiles fear, be afraid of nothing at all. Fear Him only. His fear casts out any other fear.  
When we are together, we are washed by the Blood of Christ. Do not be lonely heroes. Do not be "lonely archers", which then returned with a lion's skin. Don’t do this! Be united by the Blood of Christ, be washed by the Blood in the Body. Keep each other in prayer. Plead the power of the Blood of Christ. Because the Blood of Christ washes us from all sin. And sin makes room for the devil.  
The time will come when God will use us more, and He already uses some of you to cast out demons.  
Jesus didn’t always deliver posessed people. I remember one woman, she was so odd that her watch was turned upside down on her hand. I was standing at the bus stop, she looked at me. And I understood the whole thing. We just looked at each other. This was, you know, like in children's nightmares: as soon as the witch sees you, she skips all children, and hunts after you. It was funny, but, in fact, I didn’t run after her shouting: “Get out of her!” I realized I have a posessed person before me. But the Holy Spirit didn’t lead me to cast out.  
And once it was like this: I was on the train “Chisinau-Odessa” and was talking with one official (he was a deputy). We spoke about the Gospel. And at one of the stops a boy got in who was entertaining. He began to sing songs in the voice of Pugacheva, Leontyev (Russian star singers) so skillfully that everyone was amazed. The whole train car was laughing. But I was speaking with this official, he had nearly accepted Christ, but this boy was really disturbing my preaching.  
Suddenly I realized that the boy was sent by Satan to turn this man away from Jesus. What was I supposed to do? He was performing, this demon posessed boy, about fourteen years old. I got up, walked over to him and said in his ear: “In the Name of Jesus Christ I command you: shut up and sit down!” And he fainted like that, lost balance in my hands. I took him under the armpits and put him on the seat. And so, to the very end of the journey, he stayed calm and silent. I went to the deputy, sat down opposite him. He says: "Are you a doctor?" I say: "Yes, I am." And I continued my speech. When the train stopped at the next station, the boy quietly got up and silently left.  
  
We have the authority, but the Holy Spirit guides when we are to use it. We should not be running after all the posessed people casting out Satan.  
Recently I was at one of the conferences. And a sister said to me: “Let us come over to this prophet, very famous. He prophesied about presidents, and everything has come to pass.” He was a very famous prophet, I won’t say his name. I said, "No, I will not go after the prophet." If the Lord wants to get me, He will have me. I won't run after the prophet! ”

When I left that city, I saw a dream. I was lifted up into a helicopter, very unusual. Inside it had an amphitheater with high-level specialists. Some time after this dream, I received a parcel: a CD with a video of the prophecies of several people. One sister prophesied about us: “I see war happening where he (that is, I) lives, like the one with Daniel. And there will be time when he will be driven. You will be driven as if by force, as if they took you, the way Paul was taken, but you fear nothing, because this is for the testimony. And you will testify about Me and draw the attention of the authorities. Because I see war in heaven, like with Daniel.” This sister, as a prophet, saw Angels in the spiritual world, in the heavens above our city. And she testified that, as the Angels were battling in the times of Daniel, they are in the same way battling over our city now.  
It all came to pass. Just a few days or weeks after this, the police “took” me from the plane on arrival. I'd never had this before in my life. They were waiting only for me, nobody else. And I didn’t even need to demand their documents to see who was taking me. Those were special services. And then it happened again more than once. I was with my son, a young boy, he was walking and wondering: “Dad, where are we going?” I say: “Son, these are glorious things that are happening now, rejoice. Because one must be worthy of such a thing!” Jesus is the Lord!  
What do I want to say by sharing all these things? That there is a war going on in the spiritual world. Above us, in the invisible world, there is a battle for human souls. And when the church is not praying, it doesn’t break through the heavens. A rhetorical prayer - something like “Lord, bless our church. Bless our home. And give us a good sleep. If You come before I wake up, take me to Your heaven, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,” – tell me what kind of change does it make in the spiritual world? – No change at all! But a church praying in Spirit, breaks through in the prophetic, breaks through by spiritual prayer. We don’t even know what our spirit prays for, but we break through. When we hold a breakthrough in worship, when we hold prayer, there are changes happening in the spiritual world, such a church “holds” the spiritual world.  
If you begin to make holes in the lid of a dark closed vessel, you can soon see how light it becomes inside of it. These are our cities. They lie in the spiritual darkness. And we hit through the “holes” in heaven with our prayers, right from below. And the light becomes greater! Angels come. We make our cities points of entry of heavenly forces to earth!  
Or we come to dark cities and villages. We don’t know what the situation is there if we have no revelation. We don’t know what kind of spirits dwell in them, we don’t know anything. We just come and start breaking through in order to experience the presence. And it’s not there. We feel tangible darkness.  
I was in places where I felt a strong spirit of witchcraft. One night in a “closed” country I experienced something. There was a special kind of silence outside the window. As we went to bed, I thought: "I am going to sleep so well tonight, so quiet it is outside." And there it started: we went to bed, but I realized that I was not sleeping. My spirit was working very hard, I woke up exhausted. I came in the morning for breakfast, sat down to table: hot water with a wormwood, a salad. I say: “Brothers and sisters, good morning to everyone! How are you doing? ”Everyone says,“Wonderful.” And only one sister said: “Brother Roman, the whole night through I was fighting with a crocodile”. And that night I saw how mothers eat babies in this country. And this is not typical of me! I had not watched such films, and I had no place to take such pictures from. They came from outside, not from my subconscious. I realized that the Lord had shown me pictures of that evil, of the sufferings that occur in this place.  
Having experience from Tibet, I realized that there were spirits of witchcraft there. This led me to think about the traditional beliefs of local residents. They have been connecting with the dead since ancient times. Even if they leave the country, they still worship and pray to their leader.  
This is black shamanism. Everything is simple and trite. That way I received a revelation that spirits of witchcraft dwell there — elementary, primitive, and crude. And the whole ideology is built on witchcraft, just with a communist flavor. This is a spiritual revelation, you cannot get rid of it. There is a spiritual world above us. And in this city there are both demons and Angels, there is struggle for souls. And the church that doesn’t pray, doesn’t stand in the breakthrough, can not influence in the spiritual world.  
Not always a big church is an influential one. We are able, through “good Word”, psychological tricks, to attract masses. Not always a small congregation is weak. It can influence.  
We are special forces. There are different types of troops. But special troops have a special responsibility. We must carry the breakthrough into the spiritual world. Churches must understand this.

Does your church carry a break through? What kind of prayer do you have? God gave us prayer in tongues. What for? So that we don’t talk nonsense. Because we don’t know what to pray, but the Spirit knows what to pray for. We are called to release prayer in power and faith. We need prophetic prayer when we hear the thoughts of the Spirit and release them into the spiritual world.  
When we declare the Scriptures, the promises, changes happen in the spiritual world. God is moving! We need the power of the Blood, the covering, the maturity, the wisdom. And the church must stand in the gap. This doesn't mean to shout loud. We can speak quietly and cast out demons. You don't need to drive anyone out of some souls, you just need to hug them. One brother did just that, and the posessed went limp in his arms. They needed not casting out, but acceptance.  
At the ministry of Apostles spiritual world is being activated. When you are ready, you will see the deliverance ministry is rising with you. The picture of the spiritual world will be more revealed. Unbelievers cast out demons in Ephesus, and disgrace came on the charlatans .  
Charlatans - who are these? - Children of the devil. The Apostles didn’t even interfere in this, the devil disgraced himself. The result of the healthy ministry of deliverance is such: “And fear fell on them all, and the Name of the Lord was magnified.” The ministry of deliverance brings fear and glory to the Name of the Lord Jesus.

**And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver.**

If you suspect a person’s obsession, offer him a confession. Confession is one of the best methods to uncover darkness. The devil wants to hide in secret. His task is to lie. Confession is one of the methods of spiritual warfare.

**Book of Acts of the Apostles.**

**Chapter 20**

**Wonderful shoes of the Bride**

**We sailed from there, and the next *day* came opposite Chios. The following *day* we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next *day* we came to Miletus.For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost**.  
What kind of itinerary did Paul have? I say only one thing: “Evangelism! Evangelism! Evangelism!” When the church deviates from this major goal, we won’t be able to understand the way where the Lord will pour out blessings on us. A great calling is the labor of evangelism. Apostolic church is called to evangelism. And today we must enter the season of evangelism. There are periods when the camp is staying, something happens, some attacks, persecutions come, but there comes a season when we have to reinforce in evangelism. We have to reformat our thinking.

The Lord showed a vision to our church. The Bride - beautiful and wonderful, but she needs to change shoes because her shoes have faded, and the tailor is working to sew new shoes right on her feet. Shoes is the readiness to preach the peace. Today, the Lord wants our feet to have good shoes for evangelism. When was the last time you told people about the Lord - men, women, youth? We must have this in our lives — preaching about Christ. “Woe is me if I don’t preach” – this is the Word of the Lord, which was before Paul’s eyes. But we need to pray that his words become our words.  
I want to say one strategic thing. When David moved for war, he left one part in the rear, and sent two parts to the war. I compare war with evangelism. We sometimes send the twentieth, thirtieth, and fiftieth part for evangelism. Hundreds of people in church, but two or three go to preach.  
What happens if we send out the biggest part to preach? I will tell you, perhaps, something hard for comprehension, but it will be more like an Apostolic gathering! There are churches to which hundreds of thousands of people belong, they live in the same city, but they have never, not once in tens of years of the church’s existence, met together, because they simply don’t have this opportunity. They have a network, and through leaders, through certain communications the church exists and grows!  
We need to change the DNA of our faith. This is called “to cleanse the old leaven”. We need evangelism not added to the old form, but a new movement in preaching. The first Christians moved in such a way that they had something of eternal life inside them. We build on providing people with a good seat in comfortable halls, but, in fact, we need the salvation of new souls!  
Apostle Paul got separated from the disciples and moved on his own in order to renew in spirit with the Lord. When he ministered a team went with him. We must learn to move in Apostolic teams in the lands in the Holy Spirit. We must be helpful in the Spirit. The disciples who traveled with Paul were empowered with the gifts of the Spirit.

**Types of Apostolic Church**

Apostolic church in Jerusalem was unique and one of a kind. The Jerusalem church had glorious heroes. Destiny carrying events occurred there: Calvary, persecutions. This is a glorious, beautiful church. The second type of church is the church of Antioch, born in the fields, that obtained the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It became a missionary church. This is an amazing church that became a sending base.  
The third kind of church is the capital church. This is the church in Rome. Rome was at that time the center of the world. This is why Apostle Paul wanted to get to Jerusalem, and then to Rome. To Romans he often sent greetings in his letters. Paul had a whole team of people there. Erastus - the treasurer, that is, the director of the bank. Phoebe is an old lady, a deaconess. And many others who moved in the Apostolic.  
I was in Rome, in the catacombs of the first Christians, also in the Colosseum. In Rome Christians were thrown to beasts, and they followed Christ, willing to die at any moment. In Rome they secretly gathered in the catacombs, read Paul’s epistles there being edified in faith. Imagine the level of secrecy and loyalty to the Lord and each other that was among the believers! And now Paul was striving to this Roman church. It was in Rome where Paul was beheaded. Here also Peter ended his journey in martyrdom.  
What does "church in the capital city" mean? This is the third type of Apostolic church. This is a great church. It must have influence in the city. This is an intercultural church, there are many people of all different social classes and nationalities. We must pray for churches in the capitals of nations.  
There are many requirements for a capital church. An Assembly of Apostles and presbyters must be established in it. There is a great need there in a sanctuary living, pure, healthy. The sanctuary of the church is the priesthood, because the living church has not only the traditions of baptism and the Supper. God's servants carry death in them so that life can work in people.  
Please, pray for priests, pray for pastors. How should prayer be organized?  
It’s the Spirit. Pray that the ministers may be given the Word, that the Word may be living, high-quality grain. Pray for God's peace to fill the earth, for wide, vast doors to open, for the power of God to flow, and the devil will not be able to stop this movement.

It is necessary to organize a strong prayer life of the church so that its “breath” is fresh.  
It’s the Body. Pray for protection from the enemy, that the ministers stay healthy, the children be healed. Proclaim blessing, life, health, prosperity in the body, spirit and soul. Pray the prayer of love and spirit.

**The Book of Acts**

**Chapter 21**

**Ability to move on**

**Now it came to pass, that when we had departed from them and set sail**...  
The ability to part must be in our ministry, life and in our brethren. Sometimes it is difficult for us to leave the acquired things, we feel that “our living parts are being torn apart”, it is difficult for us to part with dear people, friends, but we must learn to part with the cities, in which we have ministered. When a person says that he will never leave his place of ministry, it is a sign that he is not ready to obey the Lord.  
Apostle Paul once said: "... you will not see my face any more." It turns out Paul left places in such a way that he was prepared to part with the church forever. He knew that precisely. And there was time when he actively served among the people, but then the time came for his departure. And we must understand, know and accept the seasons of life. We also need to learn to part with our previous lifestyle. The Lord is raising us up, so that we can leave the old and enter the new. Today, many of us have this multi-level process of parting and encountering.  
Christ said in the parable: “And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new, for he says: “ The old is better. ” No one wants to leave the usual way of life. But this is life, and we must have the ability to upgrade in order to leave the old, the usual, safe, cozy, comfortable, for the sake of the new, unaccustomed, dangerous, uncomfortable. Because this is the will of God.  
  
The prison that was drawing Paul was the best place for the Apostle. Paul was striving into the new, and in his heart there was the destingy calling him. If we have the call of destiny within us, we must accept it. Destiny is drawing us, and we must respond. A man not able to leave his past, his comfortable place, probably, looks like a “spiritual pensioner”. Of course, it happens that the Lord keeps a person in a certain place, but even being there, he must have the ability to leave. Solomon said in Ecclesiastes: “Vanity of vanities — all is vanity!”

**running a straight course we came to Cos, the following *day* to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. And finding a ship sailing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo.**  
Paul began his first missionary journey from Cyprus. His team, having passed into the deep of the island, met the sorcerer there, Mark fell off there as well, and now Paul is passing by, leaving this island behind, he is not drawn by the soul tie with the man. He passes by Cyprus, in which his Apostolic destiny began.  
Read the Word carefully! When we read carefully, we penetrate into it and soak with it. So, Paul left Cyprus and came to Syria, a historic place. Paul was at the peak of historical moments, he himself was making history. Right now this country is going through a difficult time. Leviathan rages, strikes Syria with his tail destroying Syrian cities; he continues to rage in Biblical places. But this land once saw a Divine visitation, it has hope!

**Ability to pass "by"**  
... **and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo**  
I like the way they sailed past Cyprus. I want to learn to go past those things that were in my “infancy”. I don’t want to stay sentimental: “Here we once were, there we walked through ...”. These are sentiments about past miracles. Paul sails by Cyprus being still, because what awaits him ahead is much greater than what is left behind. Someone said that when a person looks back, it means his best days are over. But we look ahead! We must joyfully look ahead! We need the ability to leave "memorials" of past successes in the past.

**And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days**  
Here is an ability - to find disciples again. And where? In the great city of Tire. This is a sea port city. In the port city there is a lot of sin, black smuggling, lots of money. But there was a church and disciples in Tire. Praise Jesus for that!  
I wonder why they stayed there for exactly seven days? I also travel and move in places where there are our disciples. So I understand that staying seven days in one place is serious. For seven days, Paul had to pass on the empowerment.  
Within three years in Ephesus he raised presbyters who would disciple the nations. Why three years? Today, three years for us is very fast. How did he raise a whole guild of presbyters in three years? Because in the ministry of Paul there were three components. First, “daily”; secondly, “in the night”; and thirdly, with tears. “Daily” is not twice a week. Paul's Bible School didn’t work once a week, neither three, nor four, but seven. “Daily” is seven days a week. And at night Paul also taught with tears.  
Seven days is the right time to stay with disciples. There are certain principles of upraising. You must share your life with the disciples in order to release your spiritual level of dimension in them. We practice staying with brothers. This is also our principle of discipleship. We visit the brothers in their places and stay with them.

We gather in the morning to pray and share the Word, we eat together, we have our own culture of fellowship. Staying together, we “stew” in the Word.  
And the Holy Spirit, through certain gifts, reveals root problems, He sends revelations, dreams prior to our gatherings. This is God's amazing work!  
  
**Signs of the Apostolic Dimension**

What kind of team do you have? Our team is prophetic. We have people with “open” eyes and ears.  
We say that the Apostolic dimension has three guide lines. The first is revelation. An Apostle must have a revelation. The second is that he must have power and not only the anointing, but also the power of his own human spirit that perseveres through all trials. You will not kill the Apostleship in him under any circumstances. Whatever happens, he remains in the Apostolic calling. And the third is extraordinary fruit. He cannot remain an Apostle in a small group, he must carry the message to the nations, he has his own regional level – it may be the capital of a country, maybe a region or a province, it may be countries of the world. An Apostle has an Apostolic dimension.  
An Apostle has a team that has revelation, power and fruit. Every pastor is supposed to have a team with supernatural people, a team that sees the invisible. When you get together with your disciples, you separate with them for empowerment. They stay with you and they change. They have not learned erudition. They have learned how to walk with God, how to hold on to the cross of Christ. That is what they must learn. Such must be pastors, leaders, and laborers. I would not move a step away from Paul all those seven days, would stand by, sit at his feet and learn. I would receive everything from Christ and through Christ.

**Speaking through the Spirit**

**And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem**.  
There were disciples who could speak of the Spirit. Those disciples were spiritual, but at the same time they were natural. They told Paul not to go to Jerusalem. I think that there was a contradiction here. The Spirit revealed to the disciples that Paul would suffer, and the disciples had an incorrect, natural approach to interpretation. How could the Spirit reveal that Paul would suffer, and hold him from this? No, this is a misinterpretation.  
Once I was invited to serve in one dangerous country by people I didn’t know. For me it is still a secret - how they had connected to us. I just realized that there was something supernatural in it. I asked some of the prophets, friends we know, to give us a Word on this invitation. I don’t address them for nothing, only in emergency cases, because we ourselves must have a fairly strong relationship with God and receive revelations directly from Him. But there are special occasions where we need confirmation, where there is a danger of making a mistake, etc.  
I asked some prophetic people, and they all told me not to go. Someone spoke out of the revelation received, another spoke of his sagacity, but I did not hear the prophetic voice. Of course, I am not so exceptional not to listen to the prophets. This is stupid! You go, you get your "cuffs" only because you didn’t listen to the prophets. No, it was not disobedience. There was no peace in my heart. And soon, while praying, I heard the Lord speak to me: “I will not guarantee you safety, because you yourself choose if you are ready to suffer for the Gospel.” For me it was a very powerful answer, because I had not read this in books, I had not heard a single testimony of such a revelation. That was my personal Word. I had to test it myself — am I willing to suffer for Christ, am I ready to suffer with God’s Good News. For me it was the answer.  
We ourselves choose the degree of sacrifice. The disciples were telling Paul through the Spirit not to go to Jerusalem. He could’ve said: “Lord, thank You for the brothers! I thank you that they were driven by the Spirit not to let me go to Jerusalem, and I submit to them with all my love.” No, he didn’t say that. Paul set off on his way.  
Imagine this picture. Take your time, let it pass before your eyes in slow motion. Here comes a huge crowd with wives and children. They walk outside the city, to the sea, and on the shore, kneeling, they pray and say farewell to each other. Paul goes aboard the ship, and the assembly walks back home. - These are Apostolic traditions of love. Look, what a beauty. They were seeing the Apostles off with their wives and children. Let us establish Apostolic traditions in our churches. Meet and see off brothers!

I remember I got to one country. Tired, spent the night on the plane. After landing, while still on the plane, people came over, the special services showed me their documents, they took me to interrogate. Before entering their department at the airport, I hear young people shouting: “Hallelujah!” The workers ask: “Who are you?” I say: “Probably a good man, at least.” With their eyes lowered feeling ashamed, they say to me: “We are sorry, we are people at service, we have to do this. Please, sign here, sign there.” I don’t remember where I was returning from, but they are doing their job, they have to do it, of course, this is a fight against terrorism. We respect this work. God bless them, let them do their work well.  
There are Apostolic traditions - kindness, tender love to your brother, and we should provide hospitality. In the brethren the Lord has already established these traditions through us. When we meet, we stay together, eat together, help each other. This is brotherly love. I hope that you are good carriers of these traditions. Carry them, for these are the Apostolic ordinances. The church was parting with Paul, perhaps forever. And how warmly they were doing it!

**Descernment of the "pulse" of the time**

**And when we had finished *our* voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day**

So free, having strongly composed himself, Paul describes this farewell and the subsequent movement. Who had planted these brothers? - Apostle Paul. The churches where we move were planted by us. This is the second cycle. The first cycle is to go to new places, the second cycle is to strengthen disciples. And then disciples should exhort their disciples.  
Why did they stay with their disciples only one day? Were the brothers bad? You yourself give an answer. I don’t think the brothers were bad,  
though, perhaps, there was such a problem. I don’t know. But it is said that in one place they stayed seven days, and in the other just one.

Once we spent only one day in one country, we had two services. We arrived at night, slept and rested a little, in the morning we were in the service. Immediately God anointed this meeting, fire came, there was a sharp, tearing, wild anointing, and the people yielded to it. And it was good, because the second anointing was smooth and calm. Just two meetings. I said to the church: “This is it, we can leave now.” We left, and in the morning they got a phone call: “Who was with you? How could they preach?” And we had already performed the main ministry by the altar — ordination, and ministers were taken for testing period.  
It was a manifestation of demonic activity against unveiled anointing. But the Holy Spirit gave us to accomplish everything in one day, even in such a short time an empowerment can happen. And now they are moving, they have a good strategy, which is ten times more complicated than it was before, so this is all the grace of the Lord. We must learn to move together with the grace.

**On the next *day* we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was *one* of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied....**Apparently, there was both safity and grace, because they stayed for many days. You see, they didn’t stay in every home, but in the right place and with the right people. In this home there were four daughters prophesying. They had already been empowered by the grace, and now its reinforcement happened. There are places that you visit, and there is a very powerfull spiritual life running there. You yourself get strengthened in it, and the connection of this grace happens.  
Once a very explosive brother came to one of our churches, just like “a fountain”. He rejoiced at how powerfully the Spirit works with us. The brother asked us:  
- Where are we going today?  
- Where do you want to go? Maybe, we go sightseeing in the city?

- Can I see your prayer room?

He experienced the presence of Angels, saw the presence of the Spirit in our prayer room, and wanted nothing more, just to abide in prayer.

...**a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.**  
That, it turns out, is the kind of place Philip's house was. Agabus was an active gift in ministry. He came to Caesarea in order to serve as a prophetic gift in the house of Philip the Evangelist. Can you imagine what homes must be like for prophets to visit them!? It is written that the prophet Agabus, when he had come to them, took Paul’s belt and tied his hands, just like the Old Testament Jeremiah or Zedekiah, and said: “Thus says the Holy Spirit!” What a wonderful New Testament terminology.

**Willingness of the Bride to suffer**

**“So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.”**See, what an interesting revelation. That is, it was a prophetic action and a prophetic act: Agabus even demonstrated how he shall be bound. Then the prophet rose up and left. That was it. Very interesting. Agabus not only demonstrated how the Jews would bind him, but also said that Paul would be delivered into the hands of the Gentiles, like Jesus Christ was. Paul was surrounded by revelations about persecutions. Much was revealed to him, and he wrote about this to Timothy. The Holy Spirit spoke about this more and more often.  
The Lord warned us too. We were literally surrounded by information about persecutions. Our youth (I was amazed) were watching films about prisoners, they loved persecuted brothers to tears. Before them in generations, the word about persecution was hidden, it was not demanded, but it started “working” in this generation! Because the period of preparation has begun.

**Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.Then Paul answered, «What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”**  
  
Paul had two things: he wanted to be a prisoner, and he was ready to die for the Name of the Lord. We must have these two things.  
In his childhood brother Levchuk was asked what he wanted to be. And the boy, who was barely nine years old, replied: "I want to be a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ." And one old woman said: “Oh, son, what are you asking for? May God bless you! And may He make your word in your mouth firm and fully established.” At the age of 18 he went into bondage with the execution sentence, because during the war he didn’t take arms in his hands. He wasn’t put to death, he went through the death prison cell and was released.

**So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, “The will of the Lord be done.»**Paul was loved and was simply in the human way persuaded to stay. But it was impossible to dissuade him.

**And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem. Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.**  
I am touched by this moment - how the Apostle went on facing his sufferings. At that time believers were thrown to be torn by beasts in the Colosseum. Those were very violent Gentiles - the Romans. For them gods were people. Caesar was their god. Paul was literally walking towards death. Imagine what it means to go to Jerusalem when all the prophets talk about the coming tribulation!  
As Jesus was entering Jerusalem, so is Paul ascending to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is on a mountain. Jesus was ascending to Jerusalem, exactly on Calvary. Paul was also ascending the mountain. His dream came true because he wanted to be worthy of death, to conform to the sufferings of Jesus. Soak in the Apostle’s dimension, Apostle’s devotion, Apostle’s heart. This is martyrdom for Christ.  
A disciple in Jerusalem, with whom it was possible to stay, Mnason from Cyprus, served hospitality to the Apostles. Paul had places in Jerusalem where he could stay. Mnason was a longtime disciple of Paul. I declare that in our churches there will be such Mnasons who would receive brothers and sisters for a long time. This is a ministry of hospitality.

**The path of the cross detects and causes persecution**

**And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. On the following *day* Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.**

Imagine what Paul was going through. He is not yet arrested, not driven, not beaten. This is even harder. But he is waiting, because there is a prophecy, he came to Jerusalem to get into bonds.  
  
By that time a chain of dramatic events had already occured in Jerusalem. In the city Stephen was stoned to death, and Apostle James was killed with a sword. Another James, the brother of Jesus Christ, was leeding the congregation together with Peter in Jerusalem. Peter, already humbled, listened to what James was saying, although James was not one of the twelve, but was later elected out of seventy.  
Jerusalem, who beat the prophets: Zechariah, Isaiah ... Paul repeats their path. “All the elders were present,” the meeting was solid.

**When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.**  
Why did the elders come? - To listen to Paul. That kind of unity of the brothers had. This was not a scheduled conference. Paul arrived, it meant everyone was to come together. In this simpleness they listened to the Apostle telling what God had done through his ministry. That was the beauty of Christ in the church. Let us also get simplified, because today the Body presents such a format of meetings, in which there is no love, but there is a benefit from business.

**And when they heard *it,* they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law;but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children nor to walk according to the customs. What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come.Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow.Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave *their* heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but *that* you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law. But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written *and* decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from *things* offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.” Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having been purified with them, entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each one of them.Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having been purified with them, entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each one of them.**  
Paul was already very famous. But here he is just silent. He has the prophecy that he will be “taken” into bonds. Saul was silent, like Jesus, so as not to provoke. He wanted God to do what He had said at His appointed time. He entered into the meekness of Christ. Paul doesn’t utter a word, he is silent, so as not to prevent God from laying His hand on him.  
And I ask you, why do thousands of people today go to the temple freely and don’t experience persecutions? Doesn't it seem strange to you? Persecution arose against Stephen, James, Peter was taken into dungeon, Paul was imprisoned several times. Christians of this age have stopped the offence of the Cross, the church began to “make friends” with the world, and the persecutions stopped. And here comes the anointed Paul and silently awaits for his hour:  
  
**Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”(For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded *him* to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done. And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another. So when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks.When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, “Away with him!”**

**Limiting the boundaries of darkness (a measure defined from above**

Paul was delivered from premature death, the Lord didn’t say that he would die in Jerusalem. He said Paul would stand before the kings, and at that time it had not yet happened. Paul realized he would not die in Jerusalem, but would go to Rome, and for that he had to act.  
Do you see how deeply the Word reveals? We must be able to go through persecution into a greater level of fulfillment of revelations. Apostle Paul had advanced further in order to stand before Caesar, that is, to avoid early death, in order to complete his testimony. So it was with Jesus, when He didn’t fall into the hands of the executioners before He was taken to Calvary. The Apostle always used any circumstance to preach the Gospel. Paul preached revelations; he preached his own testimony. That was a prophetic testimony, working as a part of the Gospel.

**The Book of Acts.**

**Chapter 22**

**Effective testimony as part of the Gospel ministry**

So, they laid hands on Paul in the temple, where he came to participate in the offering, on the advice of James, in order to avoid contradictions among the Jews. But this didn’t help him, because the time came for him to move in his vocation. After Paul was beaten, he asked to be given the floor. He began to speak in Hebrew, and silence hung amidst the raging crowd:  
**“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now.” And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said: “I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.“Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’“And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.So I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.’And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus.“Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt *there,* came to me; and he stood and said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that same hour I looked up at him. Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’“Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance and saw Him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.’ So I said, ‘Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ Then He said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.’ ”**

**And they listened to him until this word, and *then* they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a *fellow* from the earth, for he is not fit to live!”**

**Anointing of darkness causing confrontation with the forces of darkness**

We see the way Paul addresses the Jewish audience: “... men, brethren and fathers” - how important an Apostolic greeting is! Brethren, you are men, you are brothers, and you are fathers. May each brother be consistent with this. Each brother must have three components: man, brother and father.  
Then Paul says: "Hear my defence...". The Word of God teaches us that a man of God has the power to speak in his own defence: “always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;” (1 Peter 3:15). Paul releases his testimony by speaking to the Jews in the Hebrew language, because language is the key to the heart of the people. We see in Acts that Paul gives his confession several times.  
I want to inspire us to sharpen one’s testimony and work on it. Each one’s testimony is a power. Everything was simple and clear with Apostle Paul; he testified of what the Lord had done in his life. God doesn’t need untruths and “adornments”; we can speak our pure testimony, because for some people the moments of purity of your testimony will be relevant.  
When we shut our testimony, we shut the Gospel. The Lord said to me, “Your testimony is a part of My Gospel.”

I believe that the Lord had been with me before I turned to Him – starting from the deliverance from death to the visitation of the Holy Spirit.  
Some of us think that testimony is a low level of spiritual food. Teaching is solid food, and testimony is infancy. But it is not so! Sometimes a testimony is so difficult for understanding that it is much more solid food than a dead teaching. Testimony is a teaching! Acts are a teaching, these are the ways of grace.  
Your testimony is unique, it is precious! Never say you have a weak testimony! God Who saved you is a mighty God! As you grow spiritually, your testimony grows, it becomes more solid and firm. Paul continued to hammer in nails with his testimony. Jesus appeared to Paul, and each time He revealed something new about Himself. This complemented Paul's testimony.  
I remember I was looking for a church and praying: “Lord, show me which church I should go to”. Once I went to a Baptist service and met with their young people. I was about twenty. I came in, sat down. We kept sitting silent. I thought: “What a strange youth ... What is this? Well, if that's the case, I'd rather die for myself, but I will do what they do. But why is everything so sad? Why such sad songs?” But still there was the heavenly... Among such nondescript, inconspicuous, illiterate people, the presence of heaven was felt ... But at the same time I could experience they were not my people, not my family.  
Soon I came to another place where there were no young people at all, there were only grandmothers, but they were such ones! They were "wild" in spirit! And I stayed with these “flaming in spirit” grandmothers who cried out with tears in their prayers ...

Oh, what a love was there! They would lock the door and say: “Until you eat, you will not go anywhere!” There was one brother, about forty years old. When I am just about to fast, I come to the meeting, and he would look at me and say: “Roma, you will stay and eat today”. I answer him: "Pasha, I will not!" And he goes: "You will." It turns out they cooked specially for me, Friday to Saturday, whole basins of borsch! I saw true love there ... I continued to pray, in which church I should stay: I went to the Baptists, and to the Pentecostals, and even to the Adventists, because only they had meetings on Saturdays, and I wanted to be in a meeting every day.  
When I was in those searches, the Lord showed me a dream where I was running from one group of people to another, and then I came to the Cornerstone, a precious stone that was under the shadow, and the Voice from above said that every building would be tested. I literally heard a quote from Corinthians: “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is…”  
Then I realized that God would ask me about the life I have lived and that I myself was called to build the House of God. I had no ministry. I just went to the meetings, sang with song books and was happy when coming home I could remember the tune of some new psalm. At home I sang on my knees taking delight in the Spirit. Then this was already not enough for me, I went to the forest to pray, I got to love the book of Songs of Songs ... Two years later I received an invitation to the “School of Christ” in Moscow. And it was then that the next chapter of my testimony began...  
I draw strength in my testimony only where the faces of God are seen, where He flashed through the bars of my soul. Before repentance my soul was in prison, and I was behind the bars, and He flashed behind it... And those flashes give me inspiration and strength. I used to be ashamed of my testimony, because there is a lot of pain in it. But once a team came to us, and when I told them my testimony, they felt the power and said: “Brother, there is a great power in your testimony.” I knew it

because I myself am touched by what God has done in my life ... This is an absolute miracle of God, Who saved my soul.  
Work on your testimony! Your testimony has “atomic power” with the Lord! You haven’t just released it in the right places at the right time and to the right people. A huge number of people on earth need your testimony. Speak from your heart, with love, about the One Who found you behind the "bars". Listen to the Holy Spirit every time. Do it honestly every time.  
After I had received that dream from the Lord, I realized that I had found my church. In the meeting, I knelt and said: “If you consider me worthy, then accept me, the last sinner, into your family.” And those grandmothers rejoiced with happiness, like doves in a fairy tale, and prayed so passionately... The pastor began to pray. And I saw the glow, like a glint at sunset... I began to look more closely, and those were Angels! A Host of Angels! Thousands of thousands of wings! And there was a noise of exaltation! I saw this vision when the hands of the pastor were layed on my head. Later I read in the Scriptures that so Angels rejoice in heaven and rejoice over one repentant. Listen, ALL the Angels rejoice! ALL the Angels in heaven! This is amazing!  
Find treasures among the facts of your life story ... Look at your testimony through the miracles of God, through His mercy to you, and your story will come alive and will bloom.  
I remember how one man of God said to me: "The Lord chose you from the womb of your mother." And pictures like film shots flashed before my eyes: how in childhood one boy saved me when I was already completely under water; when I got into situations, when my friends' teeth dropped out from the blows of the guns and their ribs crunched, and no one could even touch me... The Lord kept me all the time. That was His providence ...  
There is much in your life, just collect diamonds scattered on the floor ... Your testimony is needed for the glory of God! Decorate your testimony with thanksgiving and share it with your neighbor. Apostle Paul included one man in his testimony, Ananias. He mentioned his name. Take people in your testimony fairly. It is good - to share glory with others.

Paul’s life in Christ included a personal revelation about Him. Here is the "smell" of the ancient prophets! Perhaps, there is something in your testimony of very heavy things of the heavens? Testimony reveals a supernatural calling.  
“I will send you far away to the Gentiles...”, - they were listening till this point. The reaction to the Apostolic preaching: "Till THIS word, they listened to him." And till what word do you get? "Stuck" with exhortation? With pleasing men? "Stuck" with being nice for everyone and not annoying anyone? Here, till this word they could listen, but after they could no more and shouted: **“**Away with such a *fellow* from the earth, for he is not fit to live!**”**  
Once, while still single, I was on my knees in my apartment praying. Suddenly the phone rang. It was a sister, my then future wife. She shared a dream with me. This dream touched me deeply. She saw how I was preaching in a place, and my preaching was increasing and intensifying. Suddenly, the atmosphere in the audience began to change, and from ordinary listeners people turned into fierce ones. Anger began to rise, a hurricane, and such a strong and powerful wind rose that it carried me out the window. The sister, who had been standing in the back stage praying all this time, ran up to the window and saw the raging sea. Suddenly she saw the brother walking clean on the sea, and all the garbage was moving over the water, not touching him. I understood this dream deeply in spirit that we had a serious work with the spiritual world ahead of us.  
Paul released conflict. Some preachers cannot release conflict, all they can do is please people, be nice, exhort, console ... This is not for me, this is my suffering and pain ... I don’t know how good I am in this, but I don’t know a different cross. The Lord has taken this goal from me - to be a pleasant person, I don’t preach myself. Paul took it to the reaction, when he was rushed at. I see it in the prophets, I see in Jesus, when He was seized and led to be cast off a hill or be stoned ... That's what a real preacher is! And I am speaking to you about the testimony!  
Paul, speaking with the Jews, doesn’t teach, he just tells the truth, and for this truth he is persecuted! He doesn’t apply his thoughts, he just tells what Jesus told him. When he had done this, the same forces rose up  
who crucified Christ on the cross of Calvary... The great spiritual hostility of Israel, directed against the Gentiles, was poured out on him. Paul battled with the religious forces, with the occult forces, with political forces, with demonic forces for the freedom of the Gospel!

**The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he released him from *his* bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.**

Here is the entry point for Paul into the fulfillment of the promise. Through the Apostolic suffering, the martyrdom of Apostleship, Paul entered his predestined place. And when he stood before the Sanhedrin, he was no longer the Paul who stood before the churches, neither he was the Paul who stood in Ephesus before the presbyters whom he ordained ... He stood before the Sanhedrin ... It was the crown of his Apostolic ministry. He was entered into the promise of Jesus that he would stand before the kings and must suffer a lot for the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Today I am opening the Well of Acts to you and say: “Do not eat soft pages, because your hands will be weak ... And don't wash it down with milk - this is infant food ... Consolation ... Consolation is extremely important, but you cannot save the world with it. The page of testimony comes off very hard - like steel, but you will eat it. Work on your testimony! And wash it down with the icy water of the Holy Spirit! Spirit will uncork and help dissolve it! "

**Book of the Acts of the Apostles.**

**Chapter 28**

**Recognizing and understanding the vicissitudes of the path to your calling**

**Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid *them* on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. 4So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.” 5But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. 6However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god**.

These events occur after the shipwreck, which Apostle Paul experienced. For fourteen days the travelers were on a ship that got into a storm, without food, and they wanted to kill the prisoners. But the Angel of God appeared before Paul and said that for the sake of him all the people who were with him on board the ship would be given to him, and no one would die.  
Can you imagine this picture? Apostle Paul is in bonds with the Romans. After the Angel had declared the rescue, the ship is driven to an island. Native people grant the rescued man a considerable amount of kindness.  
And Paul, having gathered a lot of sticks (I like the way Apostle Paul keeps working, despite the exhaustion), sees a viper on his hand, which, having caught its teeth, stings him. The natives think a murderer is before them, since justice doesn’t allow him to live after he had escaped the sea. That was a belief in the people.

**Victory over superstitions**

Today there are superstitions in church. How much mystics, how many wrong beliefs are in our heads! Even among Christians there is an opinion that if a person says certain words, then it will come on him or on his children. These natives attributed to God what they thought was true. They said, "This is the judgment of God." But it was an absolute heresy.  
We need to renounce things that we build against God. This is the sin of superstition. A brother gets into a car accident, and his neighbors begin to suspect him of sin, while others are waiting for his final fall. What a terrible lie! The natives expected Paul to have inflammation. Instead of rushing to help him, they expect Paul to become inflamed and fall dead. In this we see fearfulness and fruitlessness of the Gentiles.  
See what happens next: “But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm”. I like the fortitude of the Apostle. The Apostle shook the serpent off himself. He has faith and vision, he knows his Lord. He didn’t start "digging" in himself. Accident, robbery, snake bite - he shakes off into the fire and goes on. The standing of the Apostle is this: with a viper or without a viper, he just stands. Receive faith, receive this courage and steadfastness!  
It is sad if a brother or sister suffers in church, and you think that God is judging him. You step aside and wait for God to finish with him, and the person to fall. Today we will be cleansed of superstition and magic in the church.  
The natives waited long for the death of an alien. Their mood was probably getting spoiled. But Paul continued to work. Then their thoughts changed in a completely different direction. They decided that a god was before them. That's tough. That is, it sounds like this: “Brother, since you are not dead, we will follow you wherever you go.” What a superstition! At first they had a “left bank ditch”, and then a “right bank” one.  
I want to stand with the Lord today. This is why He says to us that if you drink something poisonous, - this is not the punishment of God, but simply ungodly people poured it for you, - it will not hurt you. You will take a snake - it does not hurt, you drink deadly, - it does not harm. You will be beaten, but you will stay alive. You may be considered insane, but you will rejoice. You will be considered beggars - you will be rich in spirit. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, let us rise, let us ask for steadfastness and courage in these matters!  
I remember my brothers and I got into a car accident. I was driving, two brothers were in the back seat. And suddenly we get into a ditch. The strongest hit was on the passenger seat next to the driver. If a man were there he would not have survived. I hit the front glass out with my elbows, the van lay on its side, one brother broke his ribs, another had a bruise, and I had not a scratch. I thought, “Lord, what is it?” And I was so ashamed, because the church had collected money to buy this bus for several months, people paid half the salary, I didn’t even know it at first, they made this decision themselves. I felt very bad and ashamed.  
At that time I already had a plane ticket in my pocket; I was to fly to a meeting of ministers. And I said: "Probably, I'm not going anywhere, it’s not a good time for a trip now." I felt really bad. But my brothers said: “If you don’t go, then we’ll accept this defeat and remain beaten. But let's do this: let’s take this blow only as a knockdown, rise up and fight on.” I said, "OK, I'm going." And I got on the plane and went, in order not to give up. The van was smashed, one brother was in bed with broken ribs, the other had a bruise under his eye, and I went to the conference. There was no freedom inside me, and when I was sitting and listening to the sermons of the brothers, bishops, prisoners, presbyters, deacons, I could not hear anything, I just thought: “What for? This all wasn’t my fault.”  
For several days I was in such condition, I tried to look happy, but inside I felt bad. When the conference was over, I got into the car and found myself between four bishops. There was the senior bishop of the whole brethren, a prisoner bishop from Moscow, and another bishop there. Those were prisoners of the Lord, in their age already. I sat between them and thought: "The Lord decided to comfort me and give such a gift." I was in the car watching the brothers, how they fellowshiped, those men of God. When we arrived in Moscow, I was blessed to spend the night with one bishop who had been a prisoner for many, many years. I shared this story with him. We sat on the sofa, and he told me the story of his life, for several hours he served me, face to face, with tears.  
He shared that when he was a young presbyter, he was taken into a bonds, it was after the war. And even in his childhood, when he was small, the Lord showed him prisoners, God already then revealed to him that he would suffer. His wife, when she had learned that he was taken into bonds, experienced severe stress and lost her mind. His daughter remained in the street, spent a few days alone, no one wanted to take her in a home: then the persecutions were violent, people were afraid to help believers. Now it seems astounding, but don't be surprised, it's true.  
Think, what level of pain can you bear? Some don’t even stand instructions. You look at him somehow different – he is already offended. You don’t say hello – he gets depressed. Where is your pain threshold? And on the first conviction, this brother-prisoner was “given” ten years!  
When he got out of prison, he began to look for his family. He found his daughter in one place, he went to fetch his wife from another. He entered the house, his wife was sitting facing the wall repeating one thing only: “Bring Kostya back to me.” He said: "It's me, Kostya." And she continued: " Bring Kostya back to me." She didn’t recognize him. So he gathered his family, began to serve the Lord in the church again, cared for his sick wife raising his daughter. Once, when this brother was in a long fast for his wife, she walked out of the house early in the morning and suddenly returned, saying:  
- Kostya, is this our home?  
- Yes.  
- Is this our garden? And are these our fruit trees? And is this all ours?  
- Yes! This is all ours.  
She came back to herself in an instant, she became 100% healthy!  
When they came to church, and the people of God saw her in perfect health, can you imagine what a celebration it was at this service?  
When brother was sitting and telling me this story, I was crying, I had this broken van in my head. I asked: “Tell me, dear brother, why did this happen to you?” He looked at me and said: “I don’t know, but I have to follow Christ”.  
If Paul were asked: “Paul, why did the snake bite you?” I think Paul would look through us and say: “Jesus is the Lord!” He didn’t care why. We believe in the Lord, not because we have known Him, but because we have loved Him. We have believed in Him. We still don’t understand all the ways of God. We have not yet discerned all of His mysteries, but we believe Him, that God is love. And everything that happens to us we accept as from the Lord. My child who loves me doesn’t know why I’m doing this or that. I can even punish him because there is something in a father that needs to be feared. But he loves, because he knows, if dad does it, then it is necessary.  
We accept God and follow Him not because we know Him in all the fullness, but because we believe in Him and believe that God is love, God is light. Therefore, do not doubt God, we don’t have to interpret everything, to understand all the reasons. We just need to be faithful to the end. If we don’t go like this, we will not stand, the failure point will come. The devil can tempt, he will throw doubts at you. So many ministers fall away, who are in bonds, in sufferings, or in sickness. Man begins to doubt - not only in himself, he begins to doubt God.  
  
First doubts come that God is with him, then come doubts in God's kindness, and then in God. When you reach this, you may fall. Therefore, do not go there at all. This is a forbidden area, we must stay in faith. And when any temptation or doubt comes upon you, stand in faith and do not be tempted.  
I like what Paul has experienced. This courage - he shook off the snake and went on. And there was a miracle : nothing happened, absolutely, without any consequences. Paul remained Paul. He remained believing the Lord.  
We can go through sorrows, we can even be ill, but we still have to follow the Lord. We may not have money, but still we will follow Him. We may not even make it upon any of the seven mountains, but we will still be faithful to the Lord. We may not even become great, but we will still serve Him!  
We need the Acts of the Apostles, because this book is a textbook for us.