

Walking on Sunshine

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S GLORIOUS
JOURNEY TO FREEDOM



A SUMMER STROLL THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS













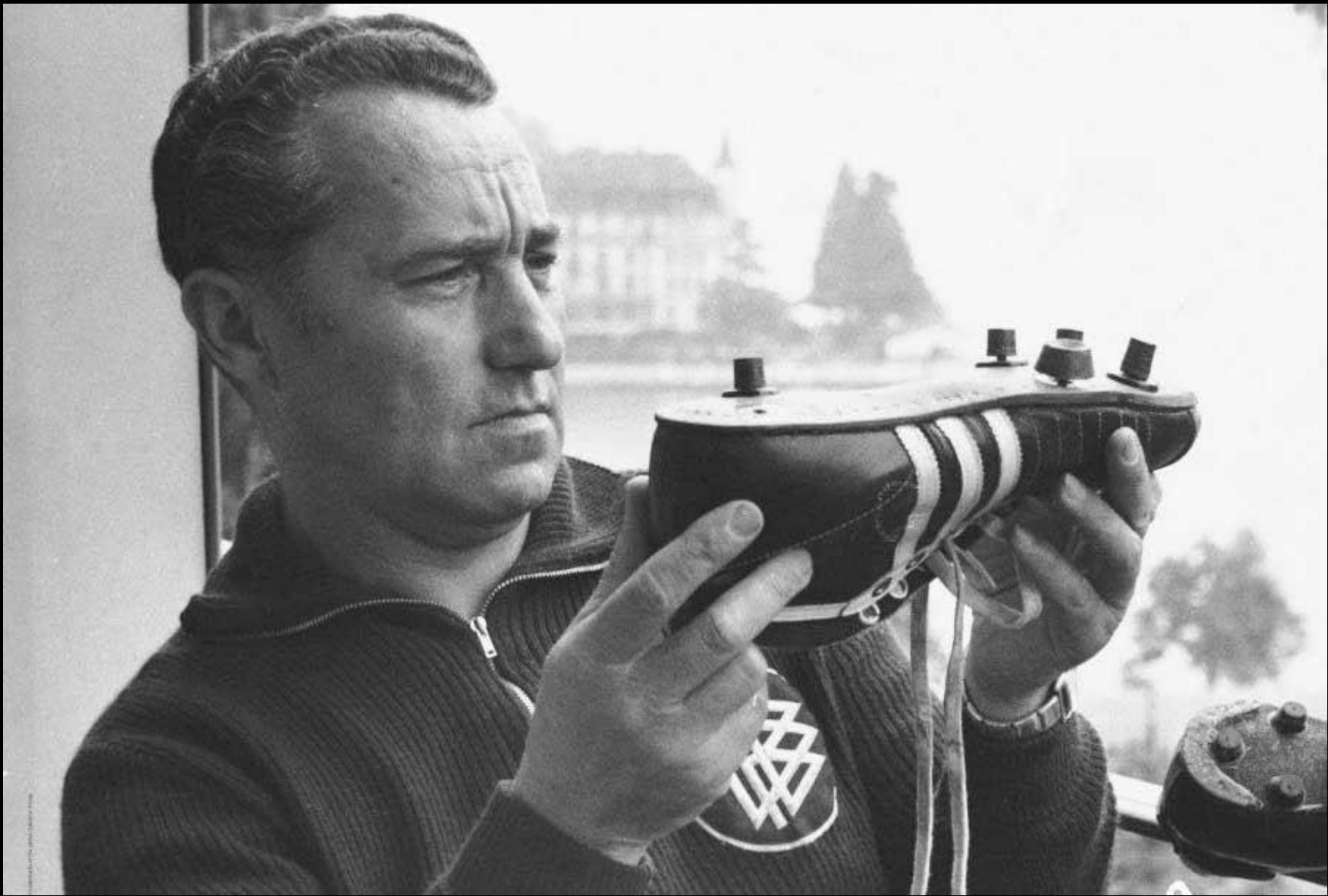


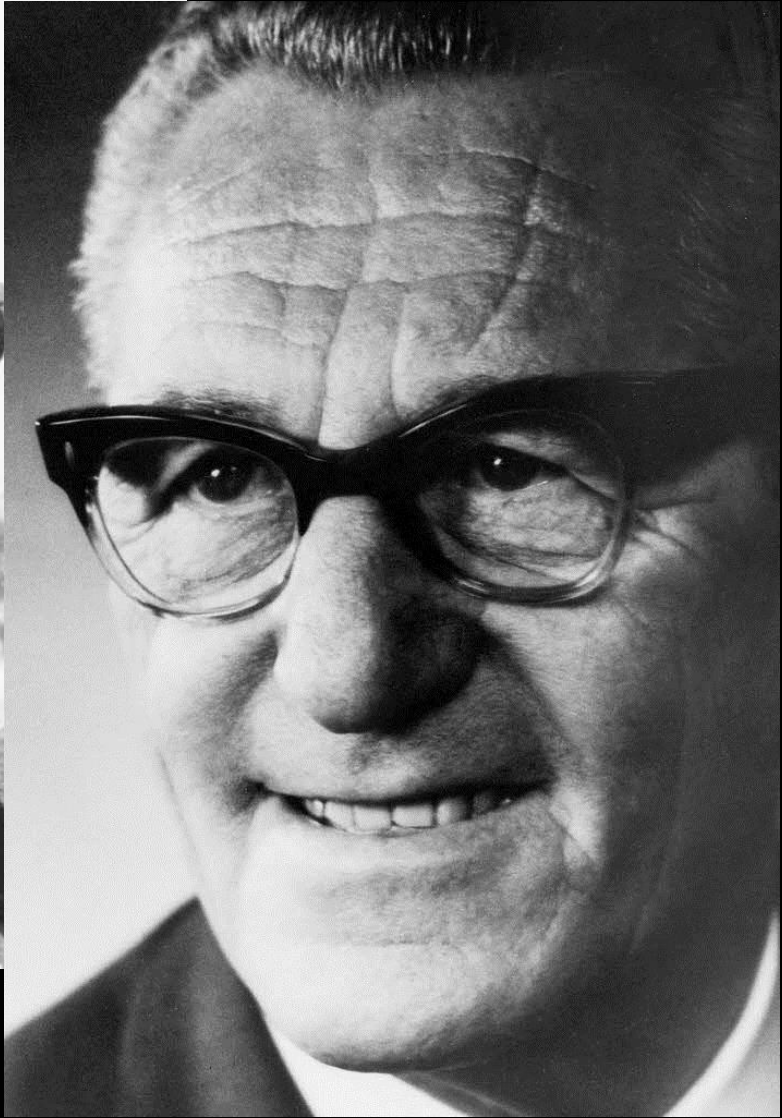
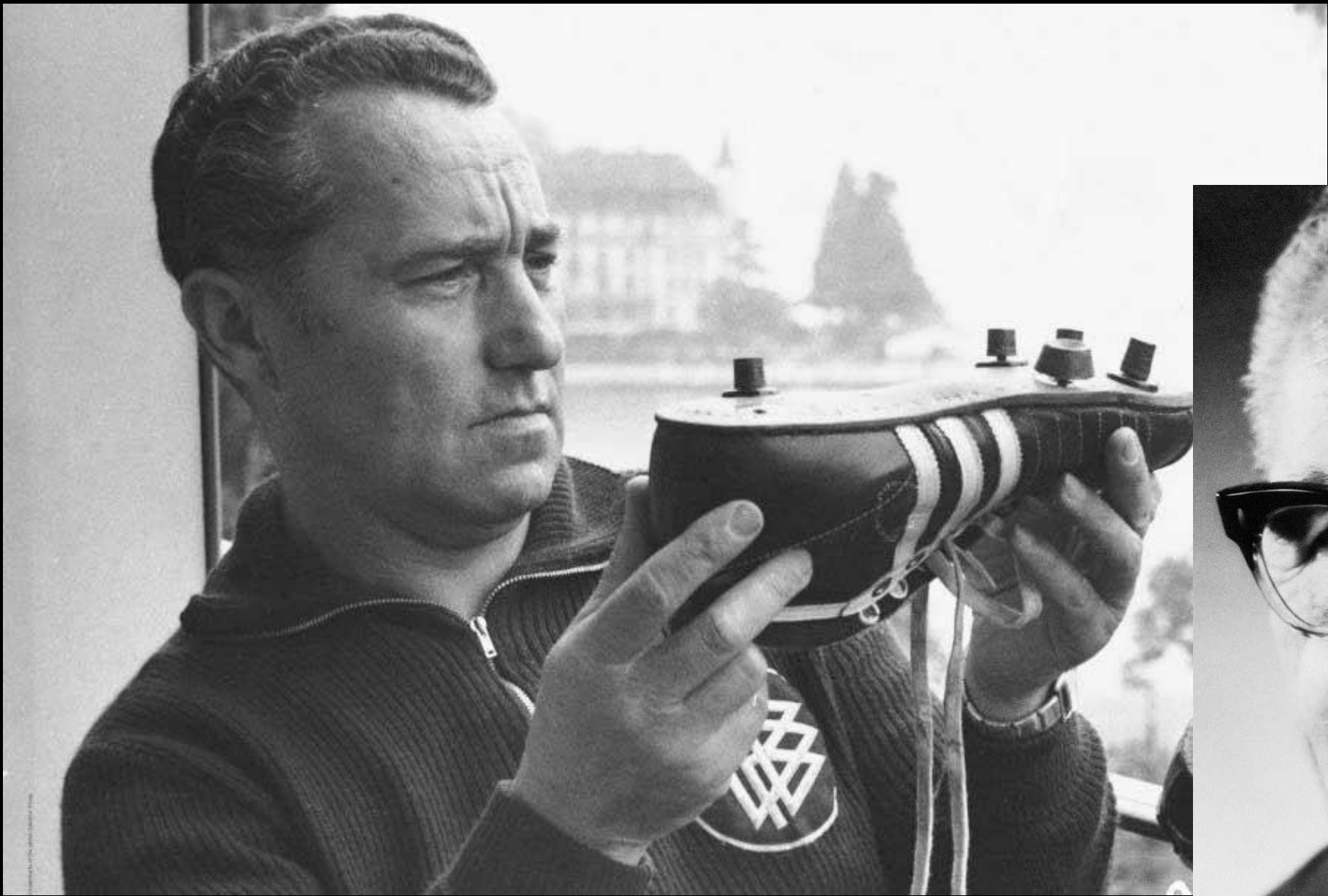














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Acts 15:36-41 (ESV): “And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.’ **37** Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. **38** But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work....”

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“...**39** And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, **40** but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. **41** And he went through Syria and Cilicia, Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

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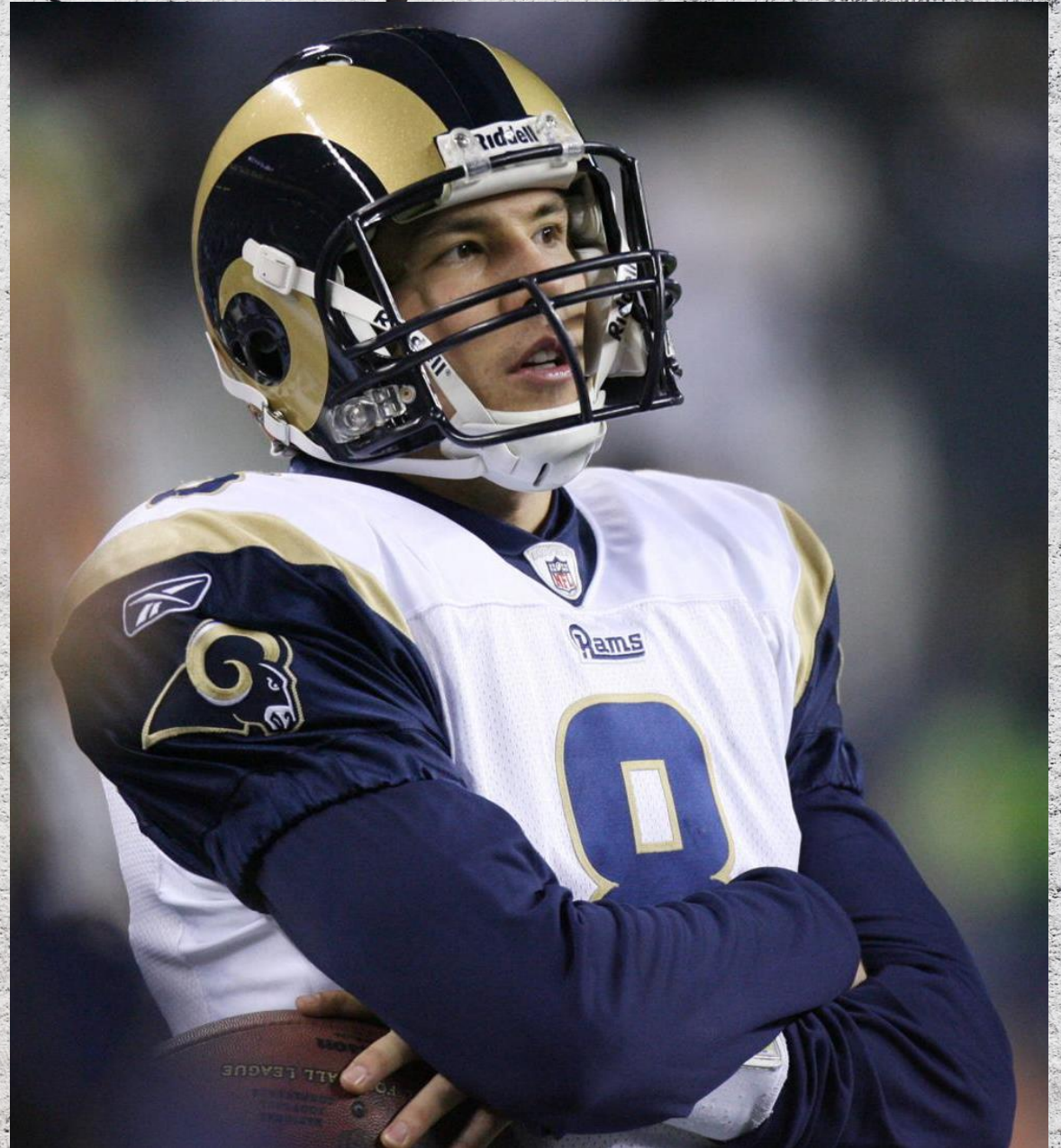
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Acts 13:4 (ESV): “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.”

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Acts 16:6-10 (ESV): “And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. **7** And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. **8** So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas....”

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“...**9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ **10** And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

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Acts 16:11-15 (ESV): “So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, **12** and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. **13** And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together...”

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“...**14** One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. **15** And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ And she prevailed upon us.”

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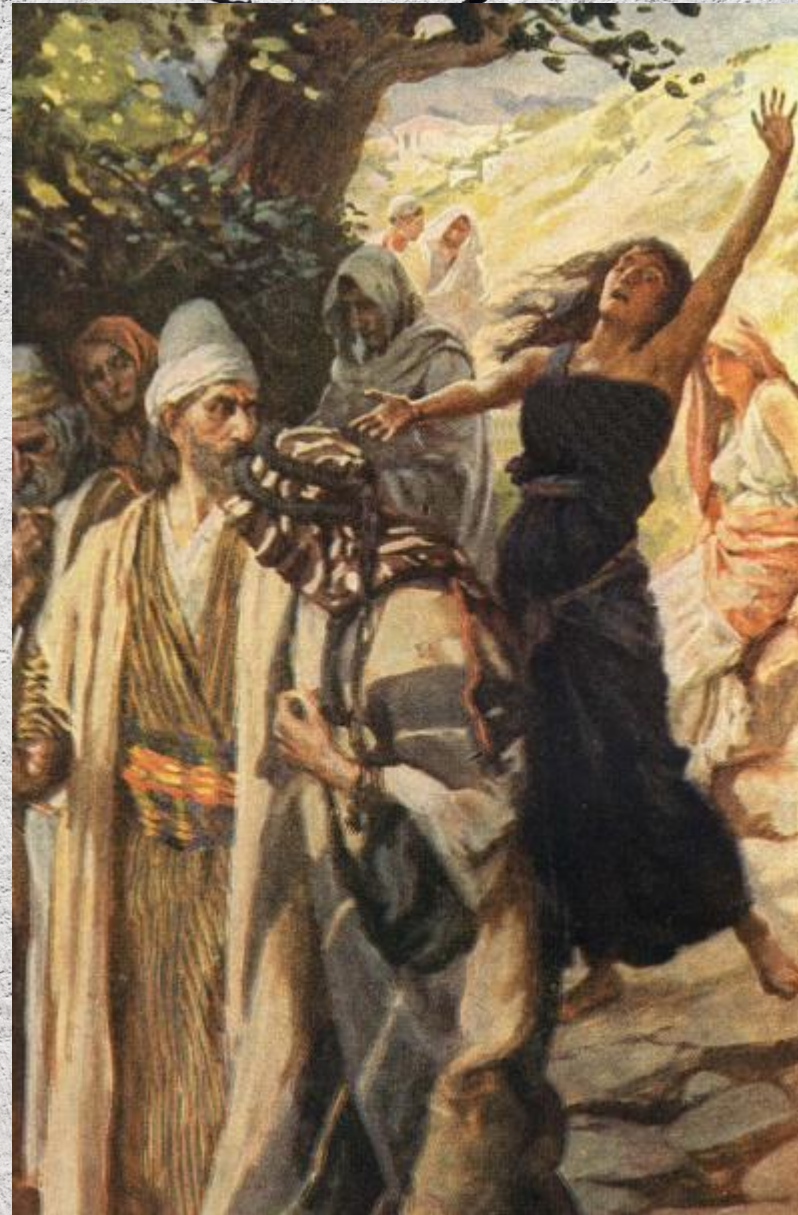
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Acts 16:16-18 (ESV): “As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. **17** She followed Paul and us, crying out, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.’...”

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18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour."

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Acts 16:19-24 (ESV): “But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. **20** And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, ‘These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. **21** They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.’...”

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“...**22** The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. **23** And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. **24** Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

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Main Point

EVEN WHEN LIFE SEEMS TO BE

ALL WRONG,

YOU'RE STILL

ALRIGHT.

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Philippians 4:12-13 (ESV): “I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

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Acts 16:25 (ESV): “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Application

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN

SLIDING

AND

STRIDING

YOU EXPERIENCE

ABIDING.

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Acts 16:26-34 (ESV): “And 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 bonds were unfastened. **27** When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped....”

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“...**28** But Paul cried with a loud voice, ‘Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.’ **29** And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas **30** Then he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ **31** And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’...”

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“...**32** And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. **33** And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. **34** Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.”

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Acts 16:35-40 (ESV): “But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, ‘Let those men go.’ **36** And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, ‘The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace.’ **37** But Paul said to them, ‘They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly?...”

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“...No! Let them come themselves and take us out.”

38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. **39** So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. **40** So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.”

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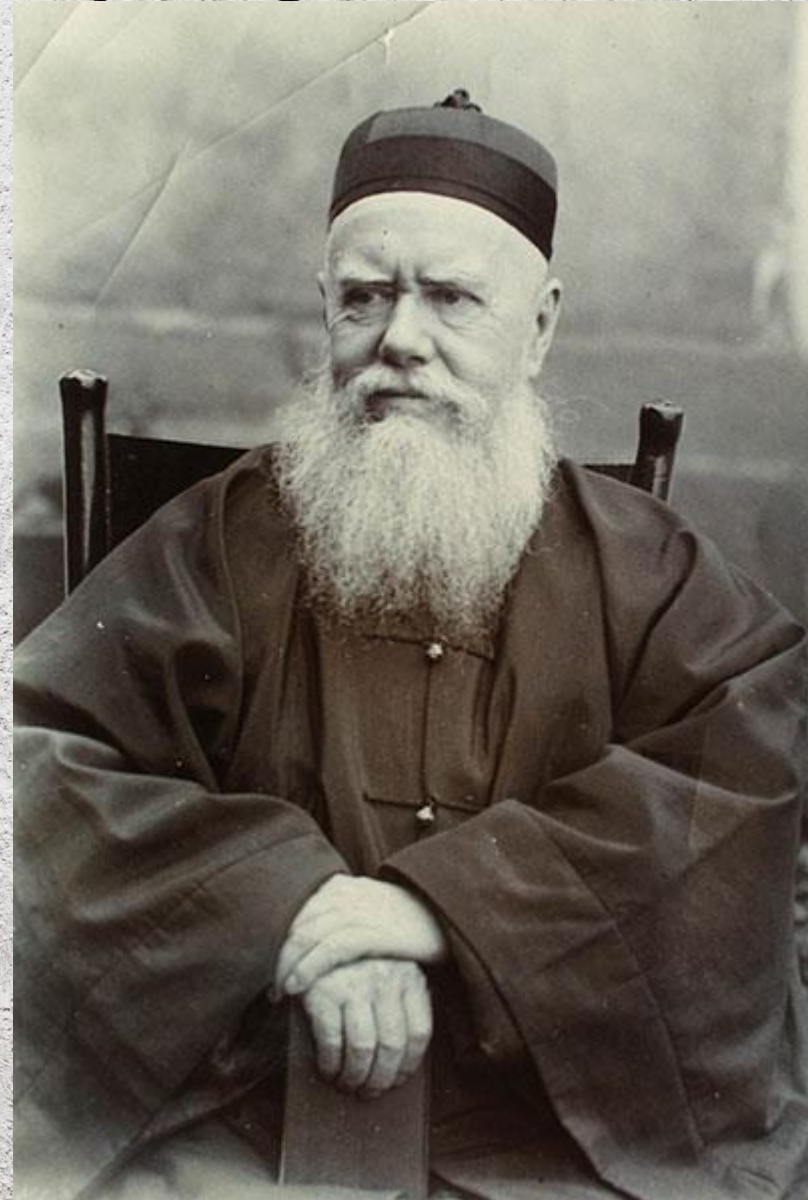
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John 15:4-5 (ESV): “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

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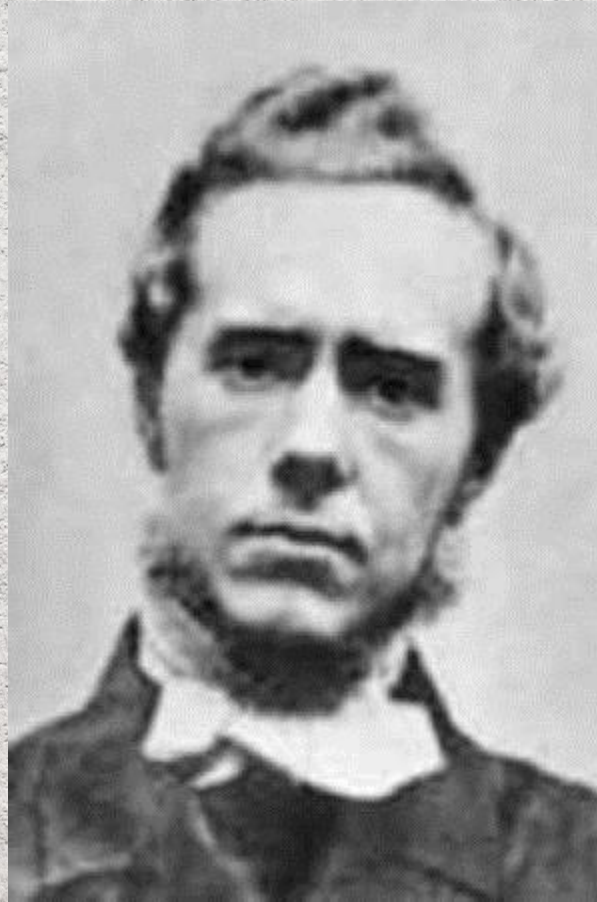
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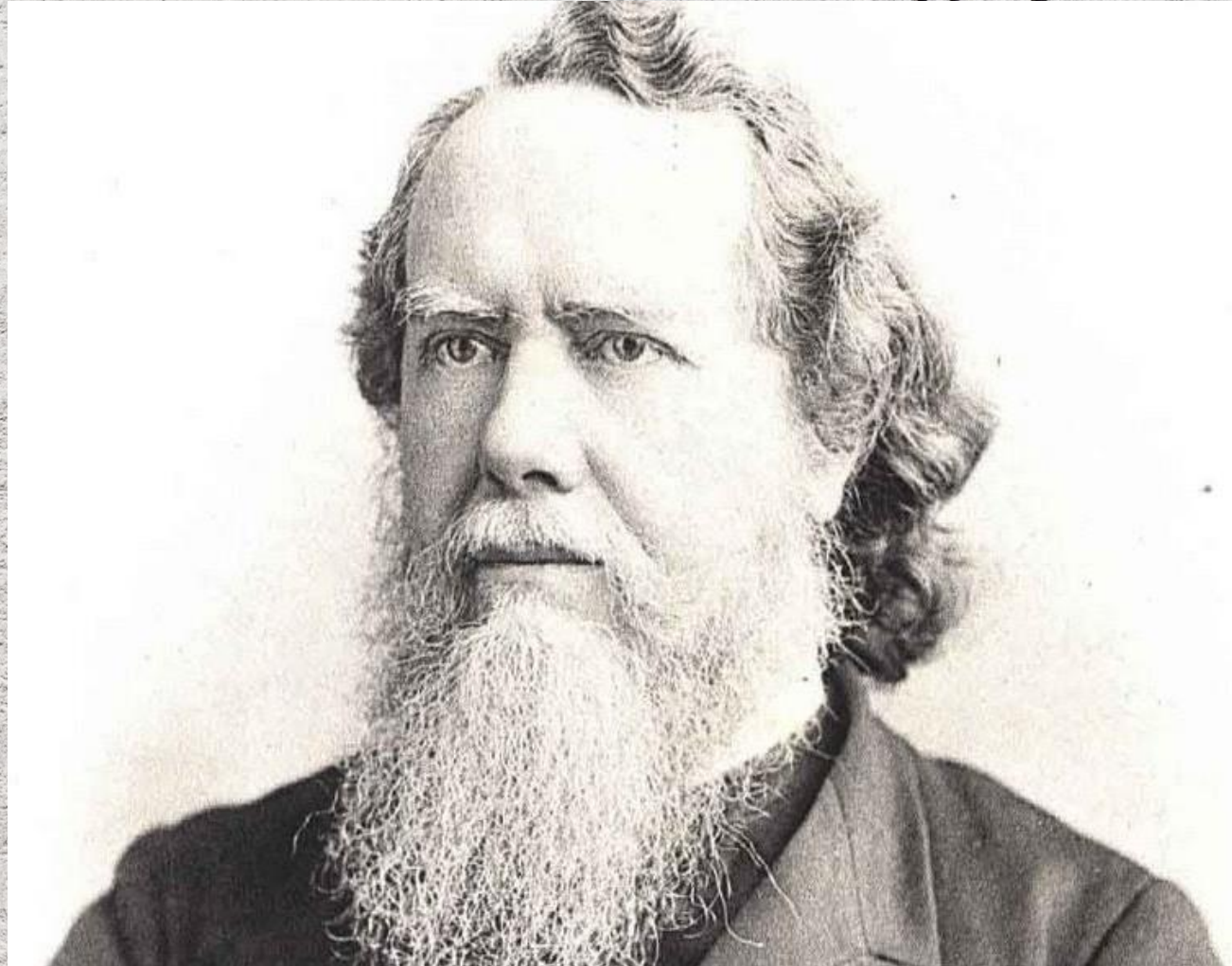
“Abiding, not striving nor struggling; looking off unto Him; trusting Him for present power; trusting Him to subdue all inward corruption; resting in the love of an almighty Saviour, in the conscious joy of a complete salvation,...[o]nly by thinking of all that Jesus is, and all He is for us:...”

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“...His life, His death, His work, He Himself as revealed to us in the Word, [is] the subject of our constant thoughts. Not a striving to have faith, or to increase our faith, but a looking off to the Faithful One seems all we need; a resting in the Loved One entirely, for time and for eternity.”

(John McCarthy, as quoted in Dr. Howard Taylor's *Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission: The Growth of a Work of God*, page 172)

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“He was a joyous man now, a bright, happy Christian. He had been a toiling, burdened one before, with latterly not much rest of the soul. It was resting in Jesus now, and letting Him do the work – which makes all the difference! Whenever he spoke in meeting, after that, a new power seemed to flow from him, and in the practical things of life a new peace possessed him....”

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“...Troubles did not worry him as before. He cast everyone on God in a new way, and gave more time to prayer. Instead of working late at night, he began to go to bed earlier....Thus his own soul was fed, and from him flowed the living water to others.”

(Charles Henry Judd, as quoted in Dr. Howard Taylor's *Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission: The Growth of a Work of God*, page 173)

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NEXT WEEK: ACTS CHAPTERS SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN