



Grace Assembly Of God

## CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	<b>Acts 23</b>	Title:	<b>Be my witness</b>
Author	Ps Au Wai Ching		
Summary of Chapter	Chapter 23 is an account of Paul's defence before the council in Jerusalem and how the Lord Jesus appeared to him when he was locked up in the barracks, assuring him that he would be the Lord's witness in Rome. There was a plot to assassinate Paul but through divine intervention, Paul was unharmed as he was dispatched by night with a letter from the commandant to Felix at Caesarea.		

### Key Verse(s) NLT How does it speak to me?

<p><b>Acts 23:11</b></p> <p><i>That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, "Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the Good News in Rome as well.</i></p>	<p>No gospel work had been done among the Jews in Rome. Paul could have felt fearful because he knew that imprisonment and persecution awaited him in Rome. Hence, the Lord Jesus appeared to Paul, telling him to keep up his courage and assuring him that he would testify of the Lord in Rome. When we witness for Christ, the Holy Spirit not only grants us boldness and faith, He intervenes and helps us to fulfill His Great Commission.</p> <p>I remember several years ago, when I was teaching on the topic of "Salvation by Grace" in a foreign land to a group of church leaders, one of them stood up and objected strongly to the teachings. A fierce argument broke out among them and I was too shocked to respond. Then I heard the Holy Spirit whisper to me to remain calm and to let Him handle the situation. The class was dismissed soon after the commotion.</p> <p>The next day when I stepped into the class again, I saw all of them seated quietly, heads bowed low and looking troubled. One of the older leaders stood up to testify, that during the class yesterday, when they were arguing over the concept of grace, he saw a vision of a hand appearing right above where I had stood, telling them to stop arguing and to listen to the teachings of God's Word! With fear and trembling, and with tears streaming down our faces, we knelt down, repenting of our hard-heartedness.</p> <p>Let us be bold to preach and teach His Word. The Lord will defend His Word! Let us also remember to pray for Christian workers in other countries that God will use them to teach and preach His Word boldly.</p>
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### APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	Ask the Lord for boldness to witness to a pre-believing relative, neighbor or colleague. Pray for an opportune time to share the gospel with the person.
Youth:	Pray for Christian workers all over the world that God will grant them wisdom, protection and funding to carry out their ministries.
Child:	Pray that more children's Bibles will be distributed to children in every country, so that they can learn about the gospel and be saved.

### PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Dear Lord, we pray for Christian workers working in various countries. Grant them wisdom, strength and anointing as they preach, teach and disciple the believers. Strengthen and provide for the churches so that they will thrive and be grounded in Your Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit. And finally, grant us boldness too, to be Your witness whenever the opportunity arises.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.
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