

◆ Personal Litany: Shaking Off Fear, Walking in Power ◆

Pray through Acts 28:1-6, asking Holy Spirit to guide you

"Once we had reached safety we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us extraordinary hospitality; they lit a fire and welcomed all of us because it had begun to rain and was cold. Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire when a viper, escaping from the heat, fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to one another, 'This man must certainly be a murderer; though he escaped the sea, Justice^[a] has not let him remain alive.' But he shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no harm. They were expecting him to swell up or suddenly to fall down dead but, after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god." (Acts 28:1-6)

Reflection questions: ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and show you a time in which you were afraid, as you recall a moment what beliefs did you have about yourself? About God? About life? Share those with the Lord

The natives interpreted the snake as God's retribution for Paul's sins. Have you ever felt you are suffering because God is punishing you? In the moment you were afraid, what messages were told to you about others? What message poisoned your mind?

Step 1: Renunciations (Shaking off the serpent)

Speak these aloud, as if shaking venom into the fire, as you renounce say, "in the name of Jesus I renounce..."

- I renounce the lie that the enemy's bite has power over me.
- I renounce the fear of rejection when I share the Gospel.
- I renounce the lie that I am not equipped or gifted to evangelize.

- I renounce the fear that my words will not be enough.
- I renounce the lie that darkness is stronger than the light of Christ in me. • I renounce the fear of persecution, misunderstanding, or ridicule.
- I renounce every poisonous thought of unworthiness and condemnation. (Pause after each one, breathe deeply, and imagine shaking it into the fire like Paul in Acts 28:5.)

The cross is the antidote to the serpent's bite and the Holy Spirit is the antivenom that roots out poisonous lies and thoughts not from God. As you make the following declarations, look to Jesus and ask him to reveal the truth about the moment you were afraid.

Step 2: Declarations (Standing in the Spirit's power)

Now declare truth over yourself, receiving the promise of Jesus, declare each truth "in the name of Jesus, I declare..."

- I declare that, like Paul, I shake off the serpent into the fire without harm. • I declare that Jesus has promised me protection: "They will pick up snakes with their hands, and nothing will hurt them" (Mark 16:18).
- I declare that the Spirit of God empowers me with boldness to proclaim the Gospel.
- I declare that perfect love drives out all fear.
- I declare that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. • I declare that I am a witness to the resurrection, carrying the fire of the Holy Spirit. • I declare that no weapon formed against me shall prosper, for greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world.

Step 3: Closing Prayer

"Lord Jesus, just as Paul shook the viper into the fire, I shake off fear and every lie of the enemy. You have promised that nothing shall harm me as I go in Your name. Fill me with Your Spirit, ignite my heart with boldness, and let me carry Your love and power wherever I go. Amen."