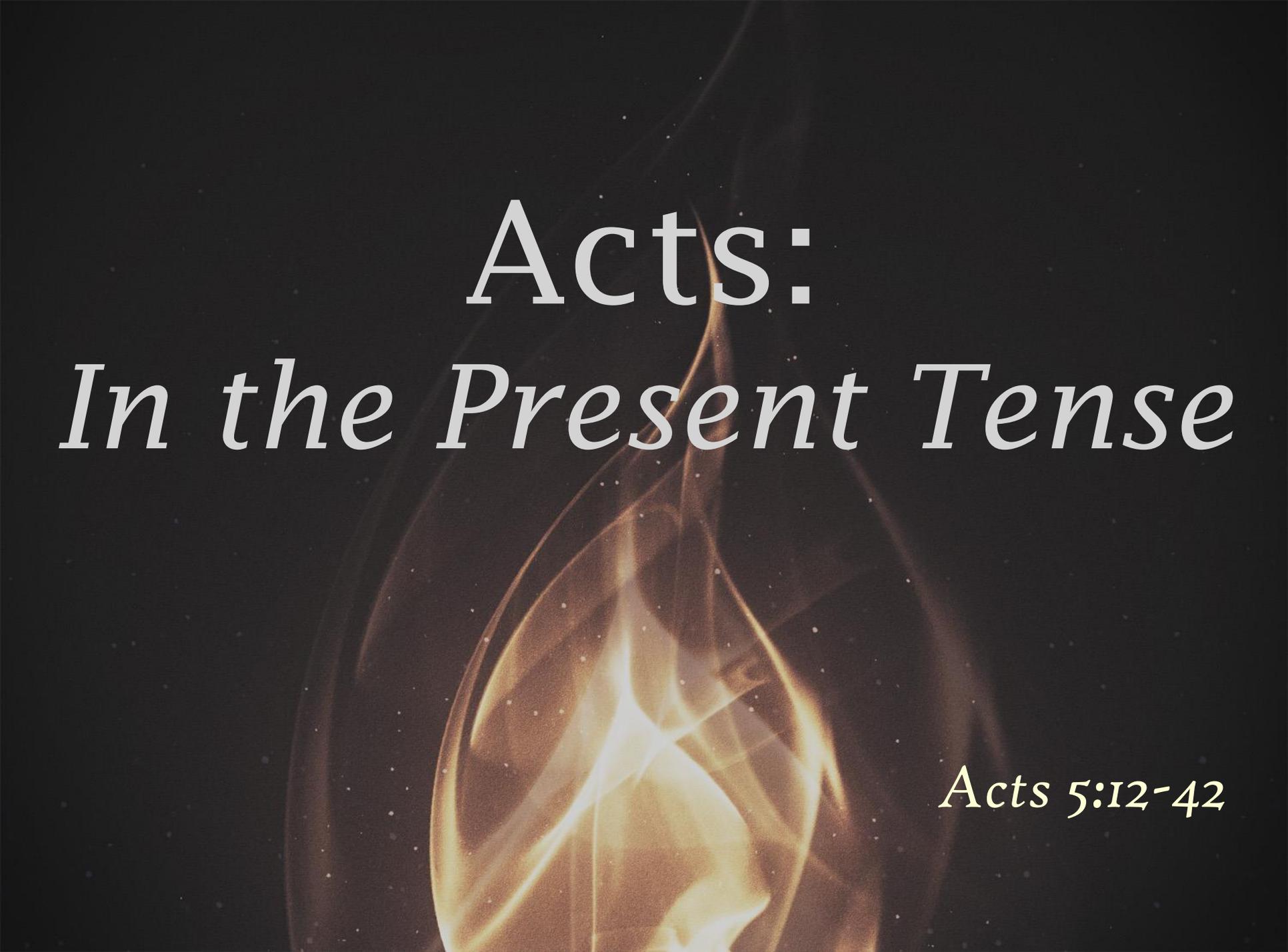


Acts:
In the Present Tense

Acts 5:12-42



Dallas
Willard
1935 - 2013



Acts:
In the Present Tense

Acts 5:12-42

They continue to ignore the
negative and focus on the blessings
of God.

A c t s : I n t h e P r e s e n t T e n s e

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

They continue to ignore the
negative and focus on the blessings
of God.

A c t s : I n t h e P r e s e n t T e n s e

They continue to ignore the
negative and focus on the blessings
of God.

They continue to ignore men and
rely on God's direction.

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin – the full assembly of the elders of Israel – and sent to the jail for the

apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." On hearing this

report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." At that, the captain went with his

officers and brought the apostles.

They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. Having brought the apostles, they made them appear

before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.

“We gave you strict orders not

to teach in this name,” he said.
“Yet you have filled Jerusalem
with your teaching and are
determined to make us guilty of
this man’s blood.” Peter and the
other apostles replied: “We must
obey God rather than men! The
God of our fathers raised Jesus

from the dead – whom you had
killed by hanging Him on a tree.
God exalted Him to His own
right hand and Prince and Savior
that He might give repentance
and forgiveness of sins to Israel.
We are witnesses of these things,
and so is the Holy Spirit,

whom God has given to those
who obey Him.”

They continue to ignore the
negative and focus on the blessings
of God.

They continue to ignore men and
rely on God's direction.



**Benjamin
Franklin
1706 - 1790**



*“Rebellion
to tyrants is
obedience to
God”*

They continue to ignore the negative and focus on the blessings of God.

They continue to ignore men and rely on God's direction.

They continue to ignore difficulty and rejoice in suffering for His name.

When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

Then he addressed them: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed,

and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go!

For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in a had them flogged.

Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house,

they never stopped teaching and
proclaiming the good news that
Jesus is the Christ.

They continue to ignore the negative and focus on the blessings of God.

They continue to ignore men and rely on God's direction.

They continue to ignore difficulty and rejoice in suffering for His name.

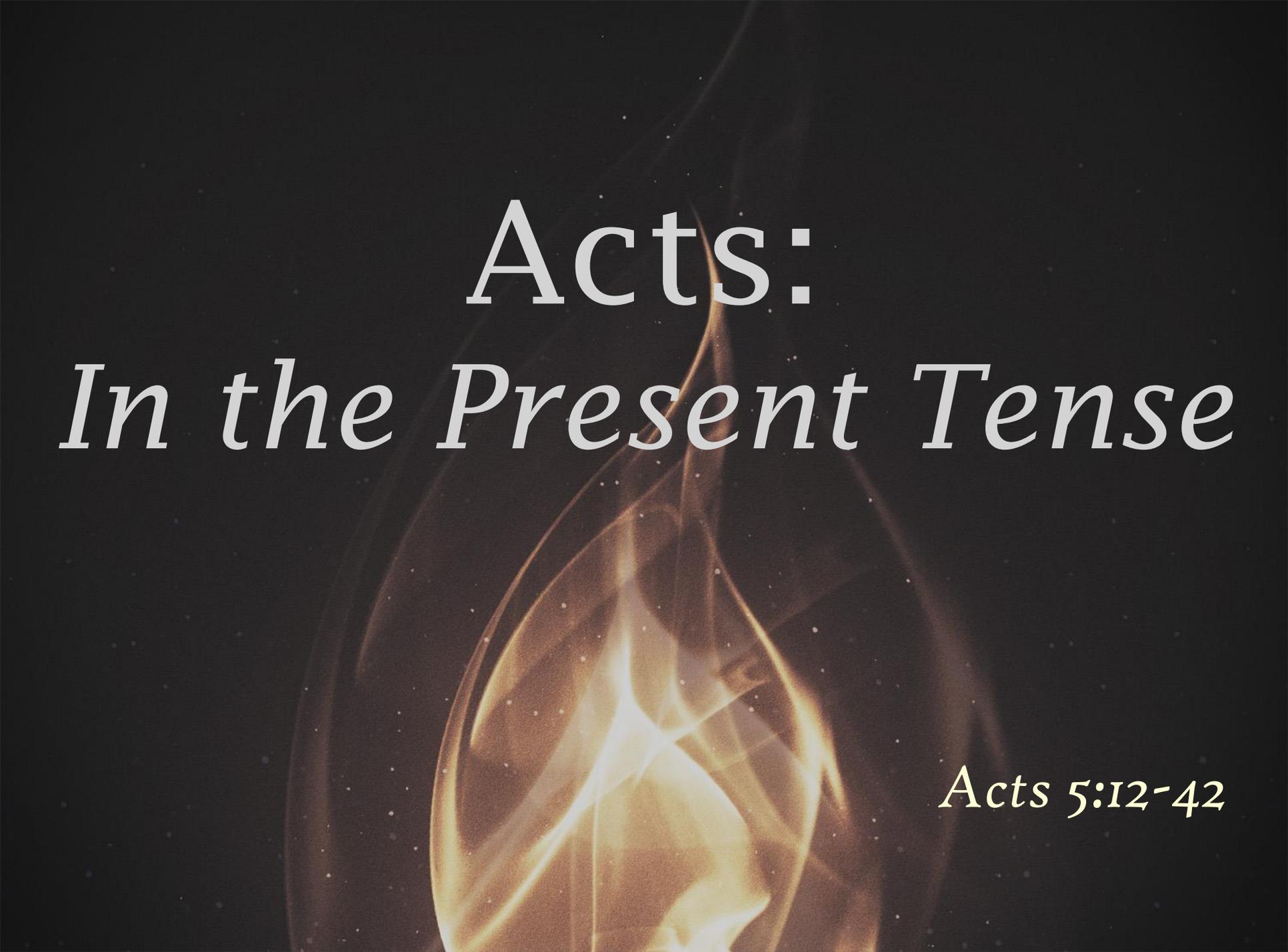


Dietrich
Bonhoeffer
1906 - 1945

“Dear Brothers... ‘Serve the Lord with joy’ - thus do the Scriptures call out to us. For this our life has been given to us, and for this it has been preserved for us unto the present hour. A sort of joy exists that knows nothing at all of the heart’s pain, anguish, and dread; it does not last; it can only numb a

person for the moment. The joy of God has gone through the poverty of the manger and the agony of the cross; that is why it is invincible, irrefutable. It does not deny the anguish, when it is there, but finds God in the midst of it... We are not called to take upon ourselves the suffering of all the world...

(But) full of joy, we are enabled to believe that there was and is One to whom no human suffering or sin is foreign and who in deepest love accomplished our redemption. Only in such joy in Christ the Redeemer shall we be preserved from hardening ourselves where human suffering encounters us.”



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