

If It is of God

Acts 5:38-39

“But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them.
You might even be found opposing God!”

If it is of God

- **Acts 5:38-39** So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!”
So they took his advice..

If it is of God

- **Context to Acts 5**
 - **Gamaliel: renowned, respected teacher of the law, educated Paul (Acts 22:3)**
 - **His wisdom provides an important theme in Acts**
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If it is of God

- **Recognized principle in scripture**
- **Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the LORD.**

If it is of God

- **Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.**

If it is of God

- **Deuteronomy 9:3-6** Know therefore today that it is the LORD your God who is crossing over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you, so that you may drive them out and destroy them quickly, just as the LORD has spoken to you.
- It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the LORD your God is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

If it is of God

- **1 Corinthians 3:19-21** For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “*He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS*”; ²⁰ and again, “**THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.**” ²¹ So then let no one boast in men.
- **Acts 11:17** Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

If it is of God

- ***God is the God of all history.***
- **Joseph in Genesis 50:19-20** But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

If it is of God

- *God has plans and purposes of which we might be unaware (Habakkuk)*
- **Habakkuk 1:5-6 “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because *I am* doing something in your days— You would not believe if you were told. ⁶ “For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs.**

If it is of God

- *We can know God's plans and purposes in scripture; we cannot know what has not been revealed*
- **Deut 29:29** “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

If it is of God

- *If the Lord wills*
- James 4:13-17 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”
14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, *you ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”
16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

If it is of God

- *Who knows (perhaps)*
- **David (2 Samuel 12:21-23)** Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” 22 He said, “While the child was *still* alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, that the child may live.’ 23 But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

If it is of God

- *Who knows (perhaps)*
- **Mordecai to Esther “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)**

If it is of God

- *Who knows (perhaps)*
- **Paul to Philemon:** “For perhaps he was for this reason separated *from you* for a while, that you would have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.” (Phile 1:15-16)

If it is of God

- **Back to Acts**
 - **The spreading of the gospel could not be stopped then, nor can it be stopped now.**
 - **Will we trust God and devote ourselves to Him and His cause?**
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