

# Uprising

## Week of May 22

John Maxwell describes “God Room” as *the space* between what we can do in our strength and what God can do in His strength. Give this idea some thought, and it’s not long before we envision a really big space. God Room is the space between the finite and the infinite! We would probably all agree there is no limit to the Lord’s strength and power, so why does the church often limit God – who is completely holy, all-knowing, wonderful, good, and sovereign – and refuse to “wait for power from on high” to accomplish the great mission Christ has set before us?

Perhaps the answer is selfishness, pride, or perhaps indifference. But our Lord has the power to turn selfish men and women into selfless servants of God. Saul was on his way to persecute believers when Jesus put up a divine roadblock and brought Saul of Tarsus to a screeching halt (Acts 9). Christ has the power to turn us around and put within us an insatiable desire for His mission, for God Room. After being the target of several attempts of assassination, Paul ends up in Rome – the capital of the world – eager to make his appeal, but more importantly, share the Gospel of Christ.

### Read Acts 28:17-31

Of all people, Paul found out first-hand what it means to allow space for God to show up and do the impossible. Acts, chapters 21 through 27, describe the remarkable events that led up to Paul’s final trip (in chains) to Rome. Paul kept an amazing attitude through each trial. Paul had wanted to preach the Gospel in Rome all along, but probably didn’t know it would be as a prisoner. But God’s “ways are far beyond anything” you and I could imagine (Isaiah 55:8b). When we choose to trust the Lord through the toughest circumstances, our faith begins to long for God Room – in other words, “Lord, if you don’t come through, I won’t make it through.”

1. Recall a time when although you were facing a difficult situation, you knew God was up to something. Did you choose to trust Him? How did the Lord prove Himself faithful to you in that situation?

What do we learn about wisdom and faith in James 1:5-8?

Initially, we may be hesitant to give control to the Lord – allowing for God Room – but that is the very place where we find the most stability. “The eternal God is your refuge, and His everlasting arms are under you” (Deuteronomy 33:27a). Have you asked for God Room in you heart and life? You can by simply inviting Him into your life – your day-to-day activities, decisions, work, problems, challenges, and even recreation. What about in your relationships, or perhaps your finances – wherever you are facing hard decisions – are you allowing room for God to do the impossible?

2. Think about the relationships around you. Do you trust the Holy Spirit to draw the unbelieving parent, spouse, wayward child, nephew, or friend who is atheist, to faith in Christ? Who is heavy on your heart today – someone you know who needs to find their way back to God? Pray for them now!—believing and expecting God to do the impossible. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts toward Christ’s love and remove the veil of deception. Write their names (or initials) below and pray:
3. What about your finances – are you currently facing a bleak picture because of poor choices in the past? First, confess your sin to the Lord and ask His forgiveness. Start tithing. Trust the Lord by giving the first 10% of your income to Him. He promises to bless the other 90%! Remember, some blessings have no price tag. What would you give to have peace in your home, unconditional love and fidelity in your marriage, or all you children (and grandchildren) in heaven one day? Spend some time in prayer now, allowing for God Room in your business, employment, and personal finances.

In [Spirit Rising](#), Jim Cymbala writes: “How many believers come to the end of their lives and feel as if they somehow missed the fullness of God’s plan for their lives? They think that perhaps God had something more planned, but it eluded them. This is a sad thought. But if we allow the Spirit to move through us, we will see his plans and purposes accomplished. We won’t come to the end of our lives regretting so many missed opportunities to do more for Christ.” ([Spirit Rising](#), p.158).

4. Close with concerted prayer. Are you allowing for God Room when it comes to your assignment from Christ – to go into all the world and make disciples? The last words of Christ (spoken upon His ascension in Matthew 28:18-20) should be the first words of the church. We have our marching orders. Read the following passages and *pray* these Scripture as the Holy Spirit leads you –

Matthew 9:37-38

Luke 11:9-13

1 Timothy 2:1-5

God Room is that space between what you can do in your own strength and what God can do in His infinitely wonderful love, power, and strength. Make God Room today and experience an UPRISING in Holy Spirit Power like never before!

***Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.***

***Ephesians 3:20-21***

# UPRISING

Text: Acts 28:17-28

Here are the areas to make God room:

1. Heart and \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ -Each One Bring One

**The Plain Truth:**

Making God \_\_\_\_\_ transforms \_\_\_\_\_.

## One Year Bible Reading

May 22: 2 Samuel 1:1-2:11, John 12:20-50, Psalm 118:19-29, Proverbs 15:27-28  
May 23: 2 Samuel 2:12-3:39, John 13:1-30, Psalm 119:1-16, Proverbs 15:29-30  
May 24: 2 Samuel 4:1-6:23, John 13:31-14:14, Psalm 119:17-32, Prov. 15:31-32  
May 25: 2 Samuel 7:1-8:18, John 14:15-31, Psalm 119:33-48, Proverbs 15:33  
May 26: 2 Samuel 9:1-11:27, John 15:1-27, Psalm 119:49-64, Proverbs 16:1-3  
May 27: 2 Samuel 12:1-31, John 16:1-33, Psalm 119:65-80, Proverbs 16:4-5  
May 28: 2 Samuel 13:1-39, John 17:1-26, Psalm 119:81-96, Proverbs 16:6-7

May 21 & 22, 2016