



Have you ever thought, “I can’t do this”?

The Bible’s Response to the Ups and Downs of Life:

Up: Acts 5:12–16 (NASB)

¹² *At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico. ¹³ But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, ¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶ Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.*

Down: Acts 5:17–18 (NASB)

¹⁷ *But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.*

Up: Acts 5:19–21 (NASB)

¹⁹ *But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ²⁰ “Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.” ²¹ Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.*

Down: Acts 5:25–28 (NASB)

²⁵ *But someone came and reported to them, “The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!” ²⁶ Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned). ²⁷ When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.”*

Up: Acts 5:29–32 (NASB)

²⁹ *But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”*

Down: Acts 5:33 (NASB)

³³ *But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.*

Up:

Acts 5:34–39 (NASB)

³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. ³⁵ And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”

POINT: _____



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. In your everyday life, what difference does it make that God identifies with you?
2. When (or in what area of life) do you think, “I can’t do this”?
3. Where do you experience the ups and downs of life? How do you handle them?
4. What does it mean for your life to know that God’s eternal will can’t be thwarted?
5. If you lived knowing God’s plans can’t be stopped, what change would it make in your life?

Take a step in faith this week:

1. **Let us know you are here today.** Fill out a Connection Card every Sunday through either the Christ Church app or the Connection Card tab in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform ([LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG](https://live.christchurchva.org)).
2. **Sign up for ministry newsletters.** If you don't get the weekly Pastor's Newsletter, make sure you sign up for that one. We also have weekly updates for the ministry areas you are interested in. Sign up for any of these at [CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/UPDATES](https://christchurchva.org/updates).
Email Darla at drivi@christchurchva.org if you need help.
3. **Check out our online bulletin each Sunday.** Use the Christ Church app or the Resources tab in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform to access. **Here's this week's edition:** <https://conta.cc/3S0tBYj>
4. **Register for our Fall Discipleship Leaders Retreat on Oct 28–30.** Email Pam at pcharbonneau@christchurchva.org or check your bulletin to learn more.
5. Come and bring the whole family to our **Wednesday Night Dinner** (5:30pm) & **Discipleship** (6:30pm). Join a class (pcharbonneau@christchurchva.org), serve in Kids' Ministry (agraybill@christchurchva.org) or join the Dinner Hospitality Team (badams@christchurchva.org).
6. **Join us for Midday Prayer** each weekday at noon on our Online Campus Platform ([LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG](https://live.christchurchva.org)).

ANSWER KEY:

Point: **IF GOD IS IN IT, IT CAN'T BE STOPPED.**