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**Unstoppable: The Book of Acts**  
Side Trip to Ephesians

**4 Corners Church**  
**January 25, 2026**

**Ephesians 2:1–10** *<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

### **1. Our Condition: Spiritually Dead (Eph. 2:1–3)**

*“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...” (Ephesians 2:1)*

- Not sick. Not struggling. Not confused.
- Dead.
- Jesus didn't come to make bad people good.
- He came to make dead people alive.

### **2. God's Intervention: “But God” (Eph. 2:4–6)**

*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead... made us alive together with Christ.”*

- Salvation is not God responding to your effort.
- Salvation is God responding to your helplessness.
- Jesus lived the life we couldn't live.
- Jesus died the death we deserved to die.
- Jesus rose again to give us new life.

### **3. The Means of Salvation: Grace Through Faith (Eph. 2:8–9)**

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

- Grace means: You don't earn it. You don't deserve it. You can't repay it
- Faith is not trying harder. Faith is trusting fully.
- If salvation were by works, heaven would be full of bragging.
- Because salvation is by grace, heaven will be full of worship.

#### 4. The Result: A New Life With Purpose (Eph. 2:10)

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..."*

- Good works don't save us—they follow salvation.
- We don't work *for* acceptance. We work *from* acceptance.

### Common Reasons People Reject Salvation — and Biblical Responses

#### 1. "I'm a good person."

- The standard isn't "better than others."
- The standard is God's holiness.

#### 2. "I'll clean my life up first."

- Like saying you'll lose weight before going to gym – backwards.
- You don't get clean to come to Christ.
- You come to Christ to be made clean.

#### 3. "I'm too sinful—God wouldn't want me."

- You are not disqualified by your sin.
- You are the reason He came.

#### 4. "There are too many hypocrites in the church."

- Jesus warned there would be hypocrites (Matthew 23).
- Hypocrisy in others does not excuse unbelief in you.
- The church is not a museum for saints. It's a hospital for sinners. Sinners are here.

#### 5. "I'll deal with this later."

- *"You do not know what tomorrow will bring."* (James 4:14)
- Delayed obedience is disguised rejection.
- You are not promised tomorrow. Today is the day of salvation.

#### 6. "There are many ways to God."

- *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6)
- If there were another way, the cross was unnecessary.
- The resurrection declares Jesus is enough.

#### 7. "Disappointment or hurt has left me suspicious."

- God is not offended by your grief—He shares your hatred of death.

- If anyone could say, "*The wrong person died*," it is **God the Father**.
- God is not asking you to trust Him from a distance.
- He is asking you to trust Him as **One who has buried His Son**.
- **Grief and anger** → welcomed
- **Refusal to trust** → dangerous