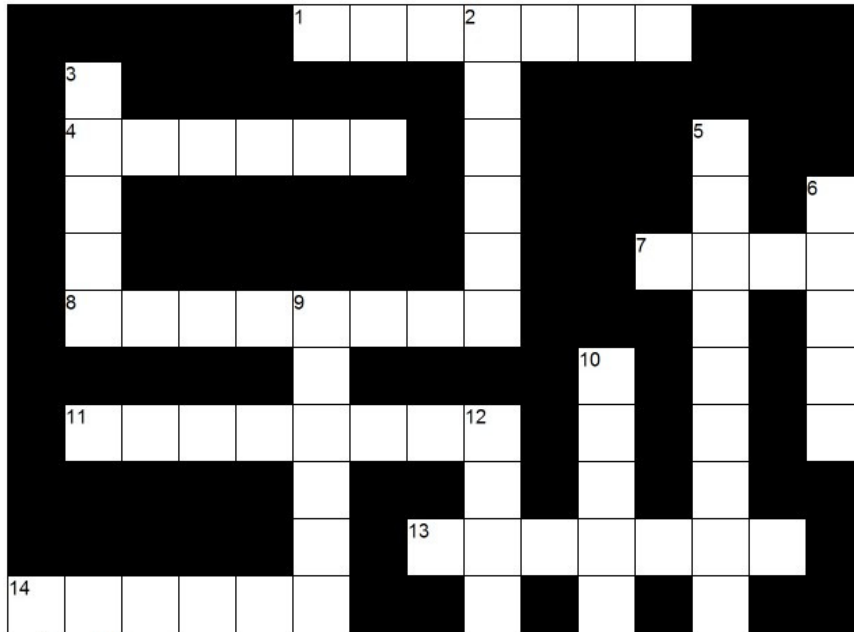


### A Bible Crossword: The Book Of Acts, Part 11

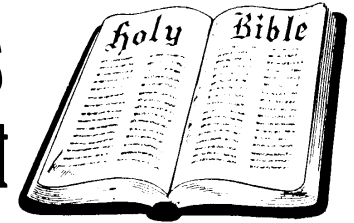


Across: 1. Paul hadn't coveted anyone's gold, silver, or this. 4. Paul spoke in this language to the rioting Jews in Jerusalem. 7. The number of prophesying daughters Philip had. 8. He fell out of the window while Paul was preaching. 11. Paul stayed with Philip in this city. 13. Paul called the elders of Ephesus to join him on this island. 14. Paul warned that savage ones would not spare the flock.

Down: 2. This prophet foretold of Paul's arrest in Jerusalem. 3. The number of years Paul preached in Ephesus. 5. Some Jews falsely assumed that Paul had taken this man from Ephesus into the temple. 6. Paul preached until midnight in this town. 9. Paul knew that tribulation and these awaited him in Jerusalem. 10. Paul paid the expenses of four men who had taken a vow to show that he still respected the customs of this man. 12. The Jews who stirred up the riot in Jerusalem were from here.

—All answers can be found in Acts 20-21, NKJV.

## Chapman Acres Church of Christ



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I ♥ Me

During a trip to the mall on Friday, our family stopped in at Claire's, a shop that sells jewelry and memorabilia. The store contains rack after rack of necklaces, bracelets and earrings. On one rack, I noticed a pair of earrings shaped to say *I Heart Me*. (A heart shape took the place of the word on the actual earrings.) I had to look twice. I've seen logos saying, *I Heart You* or *I Heart New York* or even *I Heart My Cat*, et cetera, but I had never seen the logo *I Heart Me* before.

Fashion trends are not the only thing that tend to go and come again in cycles. It seems to me that some of the sentiments that prevailed during the 1970s and 1980s are making a comeback. During those years, some people thought that the biggest problem with which many contended was a lack of self-esteem.

I, for one, would not dismiss the topic of self-esteem completely. After all, girls who are thin and pretty battle disorders like anorexia. Lack of self-esteem and self-confidence can lead to poor effort, poor decision-making, and even self-destructive behavior.

After spying out the land of Canaan, Caleb and Joshua urged the children of Israel to take it. They were rebuffed by the other ten spies. Moses writes, "But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up

against the people, for they are stronger than we.’ And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, ‘The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight’ (Numbers 13:31-33). Israel’s “grasshopper” complex led them to rebel against the Lord. They were condemned to forty years of wilderness wandering because of their faithless disobedience.

That being said, Israel’s confidence should never have been true self-confidence. Joshua and Caleb told their brethren, “If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey’” (Numbers 14:8). Israel’s confidence should have been in God. Israel was militarily inferior to the nations they sought to dispossess in Canaan, but if they were faithful to God, He would fight for them and give them victory.

Paul told the Philippians that he was able to serve God in wealth or poverty. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (4:13). Like ancient Israel, we have God on our side. Through His strength, we can overcome any obstacles that life puts in our path.

Moreover, we should know that God has given us talents that we need to use. Paul told the Romans, “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use

them...” (Romans 12:3-6a).

Paul affirms that everyone has gifts given by God. These gifts differ according to the grace God has given us. Our job as individuals is to look at ourselves soberly to determine what our gifts are, and having found our gifts, to use them to best of our ability.

We should not have a grasshopper complex that causes us to bury our talent like the one-talent man in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30).

Paul told Timothy, “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (1 Timothy 1:6-7). God wants us to use our gifts, not to glorify ourselves, but to glorify Him and serve others. This is what Jesus expressed in the sermon on the mount. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:6).

Should *I Heart Me*? Well, probably not. At least not in the way that men tend to think. Whitney Houston sang that “learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all.” I don’t think Jesus would agree. He said, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37b-39). Love God, and use the gifts He has given you with confidence.

-RAB

### Prayer List

Keith Copeland	Herman McKenzie	Faye Seiler
Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	Gene Shannon
David Depew	Sara Nance	James Howard