

- 92% of Americans believe in God

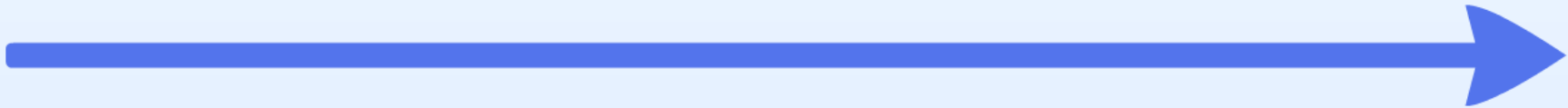
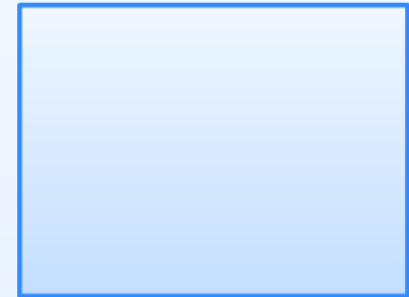
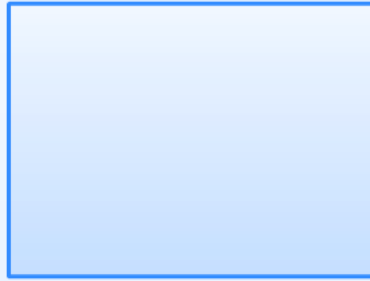
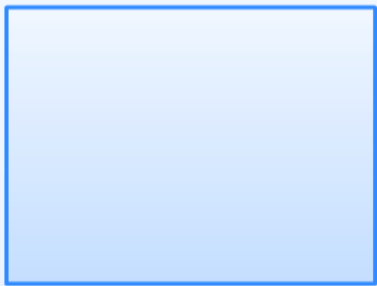
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- 55% of football fans believe supernatural forces are involved in the outcome of football games.

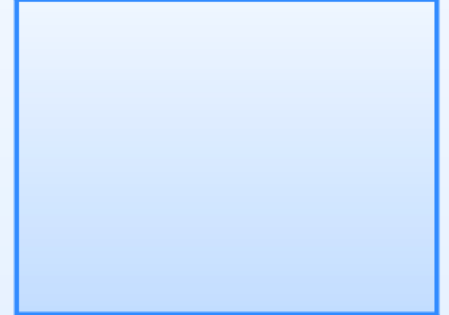
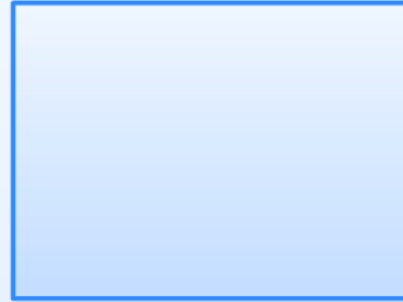
God moves in power
on God's terms.

Three reactions to God's power



Three reactions to God's power

Rejection



The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.

Acts 5:12-13

Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

Acts 5:14-16

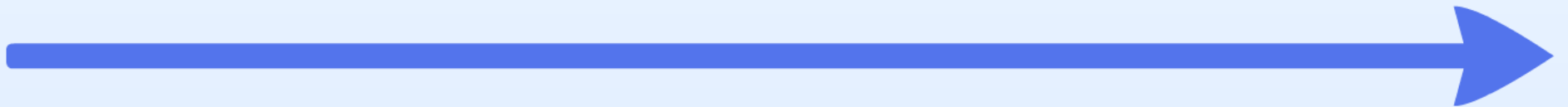
Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with **jealousy**. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

Acts 5:17-18

Three reactions to God's power

Rejection

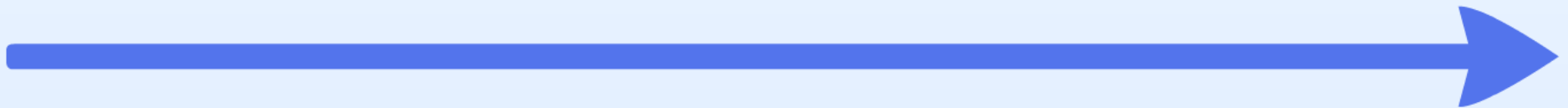
Acceptance?



Three reactions to God's power

Rejection

Obedience



But...

Acts 5:19

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

Acts 5:19

“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

Acts 5:20

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles.

Acts 5:21-22

But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss wondering what this might lead to.

Acts 5:22-24

Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.

Acts 5:25-27

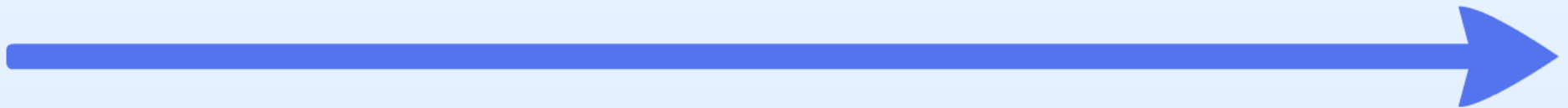
No *and* Go

Three reactions to God's power

Rejection

Evaluation

Obedience



...a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed the Sanhedrin:

Acts 5:34-35

“Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

Acts 5:35-37

Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

Acts 5:38-39

Gamaliel-Seekers

Gamaliel-Christians

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 5:40

The apostles left the Sanhedrin,
rejoicing because they had been
counted worthy of **suffering**
disgrace for the Name.

Acts 5:41

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12

Three reactions to God's power

Rejection

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