

Faithful Witnesses in a Hostile World

Everyday Supernatural Living – Part 23

Life Church St. Louis – September 8, 2024

Lead Pastor – Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Ephesians 6:13 (ESV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

2 Timothy 2:3 (ESV) Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

1. Stay Committed Witnesses Despite Opposition

Acts 14:1 (ESV) Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

Acts 14:2–3 (ESV) But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 14:5–7 (ESV) When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, they learned of it and fled to ... the surrounding country, and there they continued to preach the gospel.

2. Redirect Glory to God Alone

Acts 14:8–10 (ESV) Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.

Acts 14:11 (ESV) And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”

Acts 14:15 (ESV) “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

3. Encourage Other Believers Amidst Hardships

Acts 14:19–20 (ESV) But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city ...

Acts 14:21–22 (ESV) When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned ..., strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Acts 14:23 (ESV) And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Faithful Witnesses in a Hostile World Study Guide

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Intro. Why do you think that the culture in America has become more hostile to Christians?

Why do we as Christians need the armor of God in today's hostile culture (Ephesians 6:13)

In what ways may we suffer as soldiers of Jesus today (2 Timothy 2:3)?

1A. What is the essence of the Gospel that people need to hear in order to believe (Acts 14.1)?

1B. How do you think the unbelievers poisoned the minds of those listening to the apostles (Acts 14:2-3)?

1C. What does it mean that the Lord bore witness to the word by granting signs and wonders to be done (Acts 14:2-3)?

1D. Was it right or wrong for the apostles to flee when their lives were in danger? Why (Acts 14:5-7)?

1E. Who is God calling you to be a witness to? How are you going to be a bold witness to them?

2A. What do you think that Paul said that gave the crippled man the faith to believe for a healing (Acts 14:8-10)?

2B. What impact did the healing of the cripple have on the crowd (Acts 14:11)?

2C. How did Paul deflect the crowd's worship and give glory to God (Acts 14:15)?

2D. How can you be careful to not be proud or arrogant of the blessings of God in your life?

3A. Why was the opposition to Paul's preaching of the Gospel so intense (Acts 14:19-20)?

3B. What did Paul mean when he told the new believers that "though many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:21-22)?

3C. How did Paul encourage and help the new believers (Acts 14:23)?

3D. How can you encourage and mentor new or immature believers?

3E. In what ways can you help others in the church family get involved in a Life Group? Why is that so important?