

Through Many Tribulations – Joy

Acts 14:19-28

July 23, 2021

No pain, no gain.

If salvation is free and God is good why is the Christian life so difficult?

"We suffer with Him in order that we may be glorified with Him" (Romans 8:17).

God provided an open door for the Gentiles and they are streaming through!!

Persecution Pursues them from Antioch and Iconium.

The same crowds that thought them gods, now stone them. (2 Corinthians 11:15; Galatians 6:17)

Timothy was from Lystra, and probably witnessed this stoning.

Was Paul raised from the dead?

Paul had planted the churches first, now he established and encouraged them.

What does every church need?

- 1) Growth - Strengthened the souls of the disciples
- 2) Knowledge - Encouraged them to continue in the faith
- 3) Instruction - Teaching them that through many tribulations we enter the kingdom
- 4) Organization - they appointed elders, a leadership team.
- 5) Spiritual disciplines - They prayed and fasted with the church.

They committed them to the Lord.

They report to the sending church

They shared how God had *opened a door of faith* to the Gentiles (1 Corinthians 16:7-9; 2 Corinthians 2:12-13; Colossians 4:2-4).

"They remained no little time with the disciples."

The Christian life is not easy, and Christian mission more difficult.

There is a camaraderie that develops when you walk through difficult times.