

Acts # 60 “From Worthless Things to the Living God” Acts 14:8-28

Witnessing is the responsibility of every believer and there are two areas in which we witness: with our lives and with our lips.

Witnessing involves a basic knowledge of biblical truth related to salvation: Christology, Soteriology, Reconciliation, Judgment of Human Good and the Last Judgment.

And clear witnessing demands our accurate und of the two deaths; spiritual and physical, of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The challenge in witnessing comes from the Doctrine of Unlimited Atonement indicating that Jesus Christ died for all mankind!

Our effectiveness in witnessing is determined by our mental attitude motivation related to our spiritual growth or maturity as we depend on the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

Our confidence in witnessing comes from our own assurance of eternal security and the reward of witnessing is part of our blessings in time and eternity.

Wherever the Gospel was heard, it was rejected by some, especially those who were religious.

Religion always rejects grace at any point, at any time and in any way it can.

The greater the pressure, the greater Paul and Barnabas' confidence in the Lord.

The pressure was not real to them because the promises of God were real to them and the fact that Paul spoke boldly indicates that he understood and applied biblical truth and through biblical truth, he was not only occupied with Jesus Christ but he was aware of the significance of his life playing out as the angels watched intently.

Sometimes God delivers us from suffering and sometimes there's deliverance in or through suffering.

Since there was no synagogue, the gift of healing will take up the slack.

This crippled man was well-known in Lystra and to the apostle Paul he became what the synagogue was at Iconium and Antioch in Pisidia.

Because of their orientation to grace, Paul and Barnabas came out of a fierce temptation well.

At this point, what people said about them didn't bother them at all, except that Paul wanted the record straight; he did not want Satan converting a miracle into something that would cloud the pure Gospel.

The Savior was revealed long before He came to earth.

Adam was saved by faith in Jesus Christ, Abraham was saved by faith in Jesus Christ; there is absolutely no other way to be saved because there is absolutely no other Savior.

Anything that God does in His plan (which is always on-going) is absolute good, perfect good, divine good.

Very soon in Lystra there will be unbelievers and believers and God provides rain, which is the Gospel to the unbeliever.

He gives them something to receive; something they cannot earn or deserve.

Paul came to these people to stabilize their souls and to do that, he had to communicate biblical truth to them.

It takes the Word of God in the human spirit for a believer to be significantly influenced by God the Holy Spirit, rather than by his own sin nature.

Strengthening or stabilizing of the soul means the communication of biblical truth under the filling of the Holy Spirit so that individuals throughout these areas became spiritually self-sustaining.

It's the objective of the Christian life for every one of us to have enough of the Word of God in our soul so that we are totally dependent upon God, so that we understand the grace of God, are oriented to the plan of God and so that wherever we go and whatever we do, we can have perfect inner happiness and peace and not have to ever use people as a crutch.

To the extent that we follow Jesus Christ, we will have suffering on His behalf but remember: All suffering in the Christian life is designed for blessing; even if it's self-induced followed by divine discipline.

This exception is removed by means of recovery in *1st John 1:9* through the principle of *Romans 8:28*. *Paul and Barnabas would go into an area and start to teach the Word and as they began to present biblical truth to these individuals, their souls would begin to fill up with truth and as a result, spiritual gifts like pastor-teacher would eventually manifest themselves.*