



unexpected

THE DIVINE ⇌ IN BETWEEN

ACTS 14:19-28

what God can do through trials

I. Through many trials God can _____ your faith.

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, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch ... vv. 19-21

⇌ GOD CAN USE SUFFERING TO GROW US SPIRITUALLY ⇌

1. We can grow in our fellowship with Christ. *(Phil 3:10)*
2. We can grow in our ability to minister for Christ. *(2 Cor 1:4)*
3. We can grow in our hope for Christ. *(Rom 5:3-5)*

II. Through many trials God can _____ other believers' faith.

... 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. v. 22

III. Through many trials God can _____ a door of faith for others to believe.

And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. v. 27

Whenever you're
going through
A TRIAL ...

_____ what God wants you to get out of it.

_____ others with God's faithfulness to you.

_____ the better hope you have in Christ.

{ *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4* }

SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 14:19-28. When Paul returned to Antioch, he encouraged believers by telling them to expect hardships and trials as normal (v. 22). Why is this an important part of the message Christians need to hear?

"WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE ON the heavenly side and look at things from above. To contemplate all things as God sees them, as Christ beholds them, overcomes sin, defies Satan, dissolves perplexities, lifts us above trials, separates us from the world and conquers fear of death."

A. B. SIMPSON

"Trials come to prove and improve us."

AUGUSTINE

"Though poor in this world's goods, though grieving the loss of loved ones, though suffering pain of body, though harassed by sin and Satan, though hated and persecuted by worldlings, whatever be the case and lot of the Christian, it is both his privilege and duty to rejoice in the Lord."

A. W. PINK

"Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free wills involve, and you find that you have excluded life itself."

C. S. LEWIS

2. In what ways do we forget that trials are normal for the Christian and try to arrange our world so we avoid them?

3. What happens when we try to walk around trials instead of walking through them? How has this sermon encouraged you to embrace the growth and maturity to be gained by clinging to the Lord in difficult times?

4. Despite all the hardships on their trip, what was the verdict of Paul and Barnabas when they reported back to the church in Antioch? If you had been with them, would you have seen the journey the same way? Why or why not?

5. Read Philippians 3:8-11. What does it look like for believers to strengthen one another as we "suffer the loss of all things" in this world in order to gain Christ?

6. Read Psalm 23. What insight from this psalm did the pastor share at the end of the sermon regarding what God can do through trials? How will you use this insight in your daily walk going forward?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
 2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
 3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

HOME GROUPS The Christian life is meant to be lived in community and Home Groups are a great way to do that! Each week you'll pray, learn and do life with other believers, growing deeper in your faith and helping others do the same. This fall, we'll have special content that you won't want to miss out on - so check out a Home Group near you! Find your group at www.ccbcfamily.org/homegroups.

BE, MAKE AND REACH IN KIDS MINISTRY We're asking for 100 people who want to make disciples and pour into the next generation to come join us in Kids Ministry! It's two hours of the week that will change a kid's life as they continue to hear and see the Gospel in action. If your next step in being a disciple is saying yes to a morning in Kids Ministry, then sign up today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/grow.

SIDE-BY-SIDE If you want to be used to bless young women as they grow in their faith, then join us Saturday, Sept. 30 for this Side-By-Side Workshop. Together, we'll go over what it looks like to practically disciple others, hear testimonies of other women who are mentors and know how to deepen another woman's walk with God. Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/sbs.

BAND OF BROTHERS: THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Starting this fall, Band of Brothers will continue their journey through Exodus and witness the steadfast faithfulness God has for his people. To learn more about Band of Brothers, and this upcoming study, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: DAVID'S SONGS A place to connect, grow and learn, Women in the Word is a ministry designed for women of all ages to be in community around God's Word! This fall, join the Women in the Word study on Psalms at www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

GRIEFSHARE Our incredible counseling department, Soul Care, has a special resource for those walking through the grief of losing a loved one—a support group called Griefshare. Led by our Soul Care team, you'll walk through practical and biblical encouragement beside people in similar seasons. We know God is near to the brokenhearted, and we'd love for you to see that in action. Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/grief.

JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S BRAVE EVENT Partnering with HopeLocal, we're hosting a time to share ways for us to support and care for families in the foster and adoption community. From opportunities to mentor to meeting the organizations making a difference - it will be a sweet time together! Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/brave.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.