

**WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017-2018**  
**THEME – GENUINE FAITH IS EVIDENCED BY OUR ACTIONS**  
**UNIT I – FAITH IN CHRIST DEMONSTRATED BY THE EARLY SAINTS**

**“FAITH IN CHRIST NEVER GIVES UP AND NEVER SAYS DIE!”**



**Sunday School Lesson No. 3 – December 17, 2017**

**PASTOR FRANK A. DAVIS, III ~ PASTOR-TEACHER**

**Lesson Text:** Acts 14:8-28

**Required Reading:** Acts 14:1-28

**Motto Text:** Acts 14:21-22, *“And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”*

**Reliable Resources:** Precepts for Living, UMI; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library

**INTRODUCTION**

Beloved, the Sunday School commentary, Precepts for Living, gives us a concrete background concerning the movement of the Gospel through the lives of His Apostles. Note from page 187: “Jesus tells His disciples ‘You shall be my witness in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth’ (from Acts 1:8). These words outline the book of Acts and highlight three stages in the church’s early development:

- Acts 1–7: The apostles witness to Jews in Jerusalem.
- Acts 8–12: In response to persecution, and through the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit, Paul and his companions share the message of the kingdom of God (14:22) to the Samaritans in Judea and Samaria.
- Acts 13–28: Paul witnesses to Gentiles as he journeys to the ends of the earth.

The events in today’s passage occur during the third stage of the church’s early development. The previous chapter recounts Barnabas’ return to evangelize in his hometown region, Cyprus. Paul, with holy boldness, confronts the Jewish sorcerer Barjesus and witnesses the governor Sergius Paulus’ conversion. Next, they traveled to Iconium, where they witnessed in the synagogue to both Jews and Greeks. They were again met with violent opposition before traveling to Lystra (14:6).”

Now when our dynamic duo of faithfulness continued the labor and mission, they avoided an anticipated attack and took up residence in the area of Lystra and Derbe, where they continued preaching the Gospel. It is at the cities of Lystra and Derbe that the preaching of the Gospel in the open air spoke to the life of a crippled man who had been lame from birth. He looked and listened attentively to the preaching of Paul and Barnabas to receive a miracle through Christ. Paul, shouting out with authority, commanded him to rise to his feet and walk! As he arose to his feet and began to walk, the onlookers were moved with amazement, and proclaimed Paul and Barnabas to be the gods Zeus and Hermes in human form (verses 10-12).

Now let us note our **ANTICIPATED POWER POINTS** as we examine *“Faith in Christ Never Gives Up and Never Says Die!”*

- **Faith Opens Opportunity. Acts 14:8-12**
- **Faith’s Outcry in Opposition. Acts 14:13-19**
- **Faith Totally Overcomes. Acts 14:20-28**

## LESSON OUTLINE

### I. Faith Opens Opportunity. Acts 14:8-12

As Paul and Barnabas continued on their first missionary journey, the power of faith in Christ began more and more to challenge the adversity of unbelief. The miracle of the man lame from birth only magnifies the awesome power and glory of our Lord! Yes, Paul was an apostle who had unlimited power to represent our Lord, but faith in Jesus Christ is available to all who rest in His Will! (Read Hebrews Chapter 11). Through the faith-filled preaching of Paul and Barnabas, the Lord received glory to heal a lame man and open the door to hear His Word! Remember Romans 10:17.

And out of the miracle the citizens, in their superstitious nature, proclaimed Paul, Hermes and Barnabas, Zeus after the folklore of their pagan society. They had believed in an old legend that Ovid, the Roman poet (poem called “Metamorphoses”), told many centuries before Zeus and Hermes had visited this region as men disguised. When only two people, Philemon and his wife (not the Biblical Philemon) showed reverence and hospitality to the disguised deity and received a miraculous deliverance from a flood, the superstition was that no one would ever overlook these superstitious deities. Hence the Priest of Zeus’ temple hearing the misguided people, brought sacrifice and festive substance to lead the people in sacrificial worship. Paul and Barnabas tried all they could to persuade the citizens that they themselves were but men only, and honor and worship should be lifted only to the true God. The people were totally sold out to the idols!

### II. Faith’s Outcry in Opposition. Acts 14:13-19

**A. Again, the Apostles’ outcry. vs. 13-17.** It was rejected and opposed by the heathen people.

**B. Outcry of the heathen audience. vs. 18.** What a sad commentary on the unbeliever!

**C. Outcry on the hateful apostates. v. 19**

The Jews of Iconium and Antioch had lost face with the Apostles and followed them to Lystra and Derbe, seeking to destroy them. It didn’t take much for them to raise a lynch mob and stone Paul to death. **But God!** Isaiah 54:17 proclaims *“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper...”*

### III. Faith Totally Overcomes. Acts 14:20-28

Our lesson this week demonstrates the overcoming power of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ! Notice what faith in God totally enabled Paul and Barnabas to do: According to vv. 20-28, “Paul got up,” “went back,” preached in Derbe making disciples there. Retraced their preaching tracks to Lystra, Iconium, Antioch Pisidia, where they discipled and strengthened the church. They also appointed Elders in every church. With much fasting and prayers, they preached through Pamphylia, Perga, Attalia and finally, returned to Antioch Syria, where they gave report and were received with honor!

## CLOSING

Beloved, thank God for **“Faith in Christ that Never Gives Up and Never Says Die!”** Beloved, do you have that kind of tenacious faith, that keeps going, and going, and going? Hebrews 11:32-40, *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”*

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**TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**December 24, 2017**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**