



Devotion Info

What Tough Times Teach Us

DAY 1 Read James 1:2-3 and Romans 5:3 (All from NKJV)

[2] My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, [3] knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

James 1:2-3 NKJV

[3] And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

Romans 5:3 NKJV

- What is the difference between patience and perseverance?
- Waiting in long lines, traffic, or delays often test our patience. How do you usually respond to those moments?

DAY 2 Read Romans 8:18 (NKJV)

[18] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18 NKJV

- What is a recent challenge that felt huge in the moment but now seems small with some distance?

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DAY 3 Read Acts 14:8-20 (NKJV)

[8] And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. [9] This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, [10] said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. [11] Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" [12] And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

[13] Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.

[14] But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out [15] and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, [16] who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.

[17] Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." [18] And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them. [19] Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. [20] However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Acts 14:8-20 NKJV

- Paul got up after being stoned (Acts 14:20). What's one area of your life where you need that kind of "get back up" perseverance?
- What's the difference between "putting up with something" and actually growing through it?

DAY 4 Read Acts 14:19-22, 14:27 (NKJV)

[19] Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. [20] However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. [21] And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, [22] strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of
Acts 14:19-22 NKJV

[27] Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27 NKJV

- Paul knew his suffering had eternal value. How can remembering heaven and eternity change how we respond to everyday stress (angst from how friends respond to your spiritual commitment or just everyday problems of life like bills or deadlines)?
- In what ways do we tend to exaggerate temporary problems and lose sight of God's bigger picture?

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DAY 5 Read Acts 14:19-22 and Hebrews 13:5b (NKJV)

[19] Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. [20] However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. [21] And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, [22] strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Acts 14:19-22 NKJV

[5b] For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5 NKJV

- Think of a time when you felt completely alone. How did God show you He was still with you?
- Paul could have walked away from ministry after being stoned, but God's presence gave him courage. What's something you would be tempted to quit if you didn't believe God was with you?

If you would like a daily reminder of these devotionals for each week's sermon, text "DEVO" to 512-877-5131 and you'll receive a text message after 8am Monday-Friday with a link to that day's devotional.