

With Sister Paulette Morrison
on March 13, 2022

DISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE WORD

A Reading and Listening Session

Based on Acts 14



GREATER DELIVERANCE
CHURCH OF GOD MINISTRIES

Introduction

The reading from Acts 14 reveals the unwavering faith and perseverance of Paul and Barnabas as they spread the gospel across cities and nations. Their journey through Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Antioch demonstrates the power of God's Word to transform lives, heal the broken, and open doors of faith to all people. Despite opposition, persecution, and misunderstanding, the apostles remained steadfast, proclaiming the message of salvation with boldness and grace.

Key Themes and Lessons

1. Unbelief – Acts 14:2
In Iconium, some Jews refused to believe and stirred up the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas. This highlights how unbelief can hinder the work of God, yet also how faithfulness in the face of opposition strengthens the believer's resolve.

2. Speak Boldly – Acts 14:3
Paul and Barnabas continued to speak boldly for the Lord, and God confirmed their message through signs and wonders. Boldness in proclaiming truth invites divine confirmation and demonstrates trust in God's power.

3. Plot Revealed – Acts 14:5–6
When a plot arose to mistreat and stone them, the apostles discerned the danger and fled to other cities. God's protection often comes through wisdom and timely revelation, guiding His servants to safety so the mission can continue.

4. Preach the Gospel – Acts 14:7
Even after fleeing persecution, Paul and Barnabas continued to preach the gospel. Their persistence shows that the message of Christ must be proclaimed regardless of circumstances.

5. Miracle at Lystra – Acts 14:8–10
A man lame from birth was healed when Paul, seeing his faith, commanded him to stand. This miracle demonstrates the power of faith and the authority of God's Word to bring restoration and new life.

6. You Shall Have No Other God Before Me – Acts 14:11–15
When the people of Lystra mistook Paul and Barnabas for gods, the apostles tore their clothes and redirected the crowd's worship to the living God. This moment underscores the importance of humility and the command to worship God alone.

7. The God of Provision – Acts 14:16–17
Paul reminded the people that God has always shown kindness through His provision—rain, harvests, and joy. God's faithfulness in creation testifies to His goodness and care for all humanity.

8. God's Protection – Acts 14:19–20
Even after being stoned and left for dead, Paul rose and returned to the city. This act of courage reveals divine protection and the resilience that comes from faith in God's purpose.

9. Don't Give Up – Acts 14:19–22
Paul and Barnabas continued their mission despite suffering. They strengthened the disciples, encouraging them to remain true to the faith, reminding all that perseverance is essential in the Christian journey.

10. Remain True to Faith – Acts 14:22
Through trials and tribulations, believers are called to remain steadfast. The apostles' message reminds the church that entering the kingdom of God often involves enduring hardship with unwavering faith.

11. Spread the Gospel Across National and Ethnic Boundaries – Acts 14:21–25
Paul and Barnabas preached across diverse regions, showing that the gospel transcends cultural and ethnic divisions. The message of Christ is for all nations, uniting people under one faith.

12. Appointing Leaders and Reporting God's Work – Acts 14:23–27
The apostles appointed elders in every church, prayed, fasted, and committed them to the Lord. Upon returning to Antioch, they reported all that God had done, celebrating how He opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. This demonstrates the importance of accountability, leadership, and testimony in ministry.

Reflection

Acts 14 is a powerful reminder that the Word of God is alive and active. Through faith, perseverance, and obedience, believers can witness miracles, overcome opposition, and spread the gospel to every corner of the world. The story of Paul and Barnabas calls the church to speak boldly, remain faithful, and trust in God's provision and protection.

Key Topics from Readers and Listeners

Deaconess Morrison-Ellis, Evang. Dobney & Sis. P. Morrison

- Unbelief – Acts 14:2
- Speak Boldly – Acts 14:3
- Plot Revealed – Acts 14:5–6

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- Don’t Give Up – Acts 14:19–22
- Remain True to Faith – Acts 14:22
- Spread the Gospel Across National and Ethnic Boundaries – Acts 14:21–2