

# Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

**LESSON NO. 7** - Read Acts 14:1-7; Romans 8:8:31-39; Hebrews 11:23-40

Acts 14:1-7 Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that **a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed**. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. And when **a violent attempt was made by both** the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And **they were preaching the gospel there**.

**Theme:** What happens when the Gospel is preached?

1. Some people receive “new hearts” - Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
2. Some people become more hardened in their hatred of Jesus Christ and His messengers. They show their hardened hearts and hatred by attempting to **silence the message**. The usual response in their attempt to silence the “condemnation in their hearts” by the Holy Spirit is to attempt to harm the messengers.

Truth: - John 16:7-9 [Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit when He stated: “I will send Him to you. And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me;”

**Question No. 1.** What is the very first foundation stone of the true Gospel? **Repentance!** Man is hopelessly lost. They have no way in themselves to “find their way to holy righteous God” in themselves or in any of their religious works.

When the Holy Spirit touches a person with conviction of their sin and separation from Holy God, that person will become broken-hearted or become violently opposed to that truth and towards the messengers who deliver this truth.

**Truth always divides even though spoken gently, lovingly!** - Luke 12:51-53 Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

The children of darkness will always persecute God’s children, the children of light. This is NOT because we are offensive, but it is because truth and righteousness are offensive to people who do not want to forsake their sin. Just as the bugs under a rock hastily scatter when their hiding place is moved and the sun shines upon them, so it is with each of us sinners. We love our sin and we hate anyone, even Almighty Righteous God, for declaring we are sinners and will come into judgment unless we forsake our sin.

- John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.

One of the most incredible of many incredible Bible truths: - Romans 5:8-9 But God demonstrates His own **love** toward us, in that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

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How could any human being become violently opposed towards anyone who declares such a beautiful truth about a perfectly loving God and Creator?

Yet, over and over again, the blind, hard-hearted can NOT see the love in this statement that Jesus loved us WHILE we were sinners and STILL chose to die for us to set us free. So, they scatter like bugs when this light is cast upon them and try to destroy the messenger of love and peace.

What should our response be to such violent opposition? The Holy Spirit through Paul tells us clearly of the supernatural resources available to us so we can **simply continue** to tell The Greatest Love Story Ever Told!

- Romans 8:31-36(a) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

- Romans 8:36(b)-39 "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Hebrews 11:17-40 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

## **The Faith of Moses**

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

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27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

### **By Faith They Overcame**

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. 31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that **they should not be made perfect apart from us.**

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Despite the knowledge that persecution must come towards us, have you been so overwhelmed by the love of Jesus Christ, who died for you, that you cannot help but Tell Somebody today and every day about Him? Will you tell others at every opportunity about Jesus' Incredible / Immeasurable / Infinite / Magnificent / Marvelous / Matchless / Unimaginable / Unlimited / Unfathomable / love for all of us?

Such a great salvation simply cannot be enjoyed in silence! Please write down your day and events of your salvation just as Paul recorded his own "new-birth" in Acts 9 and send it to us to rejoice with you.

Please write down any questions and forward to [write2stm@gmail.com](mailto:write2stm@gmail.com) or [WastForMeRom832@gmail.com](mailto:WastForMeRom832@gmail.com). We will attempt to answer your questions as we are given clarity, time and opportunity.

All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis