

## THE CHURCH UNLEASHED



LifeSpringChurch.com

## STUDY OF ACTS

# Hardship before Heaven

Acts 14

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**Big Idea:** The life of a disciple will include hardship, but a heavenly vision will provide strength to persevere.

### Acts 14 NIV

*8 In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed 10 and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*

*19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. 20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.*

### **The Holy Spirit will strengthen you through hardship, and give you glimpses of his presence.**

Hardship is part of the life of a true disciple.

*1 Thess. 3:2-3 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. See James 1:2-4*

When the Holy Spirit is in control, unexplainable things happen.

### **Hardship may surface when you please God instead of people.**

Decide now to please God foremost.

*Prov 29:25 Acts 4:18-20 Gal. 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

### **A heavenly vision will help you persevere.**

*2 Cor 12:2-4 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know — God knows. And I know that this man... was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.*