

RUN WITH ENDURANCE

October 1

The greatest victories can come in the places of greatest opposition.

- *Victory* – an act of defeating an enemy or opponent in a battle, game or other competition.
- A victory is not encountered without a battle, conflict or hardship.
- A victory is not encountered if you don't endure to the end.

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) – **“So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.”**

- Victory is for those who endure.
- In order to have a harvest, you have to put seed in the ground, water, feed, weed, prune and WAIT!

Acts 13:4-12

Antioch of Pisidia

- They share at the Jewish meetinghouse and are invited to stay.
- Acts 13:44-46
- God's word spread like wildfire.
- Jews incited a mob to run them out of town.
- Acts 13:52 – **“They left the new converts in Antioch overflowing with the joy of the Holy Spirit.”**
- This happened because they didn't back down.

Iconium

- Acts 14:1-7
- The Lord proved His message by giving them power to do miraculous wonders.

Lystra (Lis'-tra)

- They almost lose their lives and begin preaching again—unwavering.
- Acts 14:8-10
- Jews from Iconium and Antioch of Pisidia came to oppose and stir up the crowd.
- They stoned Paul and dragged his body outside the city.
- The believers raise him up.
- Fruit – the seed they sowed, stirred faith in the believers.

Later they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch of Pisidia (the places of persecution).

- 14:22 (NLT) – **“At each place they went, they strengthened the lives of believers and encouraged them to go deeper in their faith. And they taught them, ‘It is**

necessary for us to enter into the realm of God's kingdom, because that's the only way we will endure our many trials and persecutions."

- They understood Kingdom life.
- They ordained and released leaders in every church they visited.
- Paul and Barnabas could have seen these cities as a place of defeat, but their hearts were stirred to share Jesus, so they endured.

WHAT WAS THEIR KEY TO POWER AND ENDURANCE?

They Discovered the Power of Prayer and Fasting

- It says throughout that they fasted and prayed and then...
- It was a part of their lifestyle.

They Were Continually Filled with the Holy Spirit.

- They were filled with JOY and with the Holy Spirit after fleeing Antioch of Pisidia.
- *"Were filled"* – signifies a continuous filling

They Fixed Their Eyes on Jesus

Hebrews was written when Jewish believers were being persecuted and were wondering if they made the right choice in becoming Christians.

- Written to encourage them to stand fast in their faith.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT) – **"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up."**

- *"Keeping our eyes"* – signifies undivided attention, looking away from all distractions in order to fix your gaze on ONE object.
- The witnesses are not spectators from heaven—their lives are witnesses because they tasted hardship and successfully endured.
- They kept running despite persecution and disappointment.
- He's the God of the instantaneous and He's the God of the journey—it's about who you become in the process.
- Psalm 23:4 – Though I walk THROUGH the valley of the shadow of death—since He used the word THROUGH, there is a beginning and an end to that season.

Acts 14:26 – they completed the work God had called them to

