HIGHER AIM

What Every Believer Needs (Part 1)

Acts 14:21-28

INTRODUCTION **NOTES** In today's key passage in the book of Acts, we learn that Paul and Barnabas had been on a missionary journey, and God used them to plant many churches. It was an exciting journey and a very successful journey for these two men. They had two different kinds of ministry. One ministry was to the lost, winning people to faith in Christ. The other ministry was developing those who were brand-new believers. In this particular section of Scripture, we find some important things about what every believer needs, and we're going to break down each of those needs into more detail. **KEY POINTS** 1. We need to be strengthened. Every believer "needs to be strengthened" in the faith. That is exactly what Paul and Barnabas did as they led people to Christ. They were discipling them and teaching them the Word of God. God was moving in an amazing way. After these people came to faith in Christ, Paul and Barnabas strengthened them and built them up. Just like they needed to be strengthened, we also need to be strengthened. Being a Christian and being stagnant don't go hand in hand. We should always be growing and getting stronger in our faith as we continue to follow Jesus. 2. We need to be encouraged. The church should be an encouraging place, and the church's encouragement needs to be realistic. The encouragement should not be sappy or fake. This might not sound like encouragement, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," but that was what Paul said in order to be encouraging. When you go through tough times, it is not necessarily that God is trying to get you; it is just part of life. I know your life has not been a bed of roses. It has been a journey, a journey of real faith. It may have been one step forward, and two steps back. Just when you think things are going great, it turns out to be not so great. But that is exactly why we need to have encouragement that is real and true.

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B. We need to be organized. Paul and Barnabas organized the church and appointed leaders. A group of elders had the responsibility to lead the local church. They knew that having a plan was important. We need to have the same mentality. We need to be organized. As the old saying goes, 'When we fail to plan, we can plan to fail."	NOTES
There needs to be an organized plan for us to grow. Have you spent time alone with God this week? If you haven't, it is probably because you didn't plan to do it. When you plan and schedule time alone with God, you will have all the time you need. We need that kind of organization in our lives.	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	What is one way	y God has stı	engthened yo	our faith in	the last year?
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2. When was a time you received encouragement that, at the time, didn't seem so encouraging, but ended up being exactly what you needed to hear?

3.	Do you have a plan to spend time with God this week? If so, what does that plan look like? If not, how can you start planning today to carve out time to spend with Jesus?