

HIGHER AIM

What Every Believer Needs (Part 2)

Acts 14:21-28

INTRODUCTION

Today's key passage from Acts is a great commentary on what every believer needs to continue to follow Jesus. Last week, we talked about how we need to be strengthened, we need to be encouraged, and we need to be organized. But that is only half of the list. In this message, we're going to discuss three more things that every believer needs in order to live a life that is worthy of the calling given to each of us by God.

NOTES

KEY POINTS

1. We need to be committed.

We learn from this passage in Acts that Paul and Barnabas were committing each of these believers and each of these churches to the Lord. This is a different thought than the typical idea of being committed. Paul and Barnabas put the church, the leaders, and their work on the altar and backed away. They were trusting God to continue the work through those people whom they had led to the Lord.

We need to understand what happens when someone gets saved. When they turn from sin and place their faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to reside inside of them. The Greek word describes making His home within them. When the Holy Spirit indwells you, God changes you from the inside out. The presence of the Holy Spirit inside you motivates you to walk a different walk and talk a different talk. God gives you a new "want to." When you commit someone to the Lord, it is a statement that says, "God, I am trusting you to do the work in them that you began."

2. We need to be sharing.

We need to be sharing what God is doing through our lives. One of the things that we are missing in churches today is listening to the stories of people who are walking with God when God has done unbelievable things in their lives. Those are the kind of stories I want to hear. Paul and Barnabas made it a habit to share what God was doing in their lives and in their ministry, and we need to be following their example.

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3. We need to be in fellowship.

As Christians, we need to be in fellowship. There are no “Lone Ranger Christians.” I have talked to many people over the years, and I ask them, “Where do you go to church?” They say, “I go to church everywhere.” I reply, “Are you a member of a church anywhere?” They answer, “No, I just go here, and then I go there, and then I end up wherever God is telling me to go.”

God wants you to be committed to a fellowship. Don't be a church hopper. Be someone who settles down in one place. The church family is to be a place of recuperation, nourishment, and refreshment. You will never get the nourishment you need if you keep treating churches like drive-through restaurants.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can you trust the Holy Spirit with the people you've ministered to?
2. When was the last time you shared your testimony? Is there a possible opportunity for you to share your story in the near future?
3. How would you describe your current Christian fellowship? Is there anything about it that needs to change or improve?
