



COMPELLED PART 3: COMPELLED TO PERSEVERE

“We tend to overestimate what we can do in a year or two, but we underestimate what God can do in 10, or 20, or 100 years.” - Mark Batterson

BIG IDEA: Victory is always found on the other side of perseverance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What’s the toughest obstacle you’ve ever had to overcome? What made it so tough?
2. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 14:8-20*

While they were at Lystra, Paul and Barnabas came upon a man with crippled feet. He had been that way from birth, so he had never walked. He was sitting and listening as Paul preached. Looking straight at him, Paul realized he had faith to be healed. So Paul called to him in a loud voice, “Stand up!” And the man jumped to his feet and started walking. When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in their local dialect, “These men are gods in human form!” They decided that Barnabas was the Greek god Zeus and that Paul was Hermes, since he was the chief speaker. Now the temple of Zeus was located just outside the town. So the priest of the temple and the crowd brought bulls and wreaths of flowers to the town gates, and they prepared to offer sacrifices to the apostles. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard what was happening, they tore their clothing in dismay and ran out among the people, shouting, “Friends, why are you doing this? We are merely human beings—just like you! We have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things and turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. In the past he permitted all the nations to go their own ways, but he never left them without evidence of himself and his goodness. For instance, he sends you rain and good crops and gives you food and joyful hearts.” But even with these words, Paul and Barnabas could scarcely restrain the people from sacrificing to them. Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. - Acts 14:8-20 (NLT)

3. What obstacles did Paul and Barnabas face based on that passage of scripture? How would you react to this type of treatment?
4. We read that the crippled man did not verbally ask to be healed. However, Paul could tell by looking at him that the crippled man had the faith to be healed. What do you think Paul saw when he looked at the man? What do you think people see when they look at you (especially when you are going through a difficult season)?
5. One day the people in Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. A few days later they stoned Paul and left him for dead. What caused them to change their minds?
6. In the message, Carlo said, “While it is true that you should fail forward, there is also wisdom in knowing when to tap out.” How is knowing when to move on connected to perseverance?
7. In the message, Carlo gave 3 practical ways that we can live out the Big Idea: Fail forward, Think long, and Be gritty. How else can we model perseverance in our daily lives?

MOVING FORWARD

What are some areas where you are tempted to take a short-cut or give up altogether? Take time to this week to focus on grit. What can you do this week to set yourself up for long term success?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

After preaching the Good News in Derbe and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia, where they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.

- Acts 14:21-22 (NLT)