

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE

Acts 14

1. When opposed, stay focused and faithful

Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord... (1-3)

2. When in danger, use discernment

they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And they were preaching the gospel there. (6-7)

3. When overvalued, be humble

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you..." (14-15)

4. When hurt, forgive

Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. (19)

5. When harassed, don't quit

However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. (20)

6. When blessed, give

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God. (21-23)

7. In every stage of life, trust Jesus

And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. (24-26)