

“New Territory”
November 8&9, 2025

Acts 14:21b

then they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, **22** strengthening *and* establishing the hearts of the disciples; encouraging them to remain firm in the faith, saying, “It is through many tribulations *and* hardships that we must enter the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 7:13 -14

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad *and* easy to travel is the path that leads the way to destruction *and* eternal loss, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow *and* difficult to travel is the path that leads the way to [everlasting] life, and there are few who find it.

John 16:33

³³ I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation *and* distress *and* suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world.” [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]

Phillipians 4:13 AMP

¹³ I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens *and* empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]

Acts 14:19-21

But Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead. **20** But the disciples formed a circle around him, and he got up and went back into the city; and the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. **21** They preached the good news to that city and made many disciples,

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1 Peter 4:12-14

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test you [that is, to test the quality of your faith], as though something strange *or* unusual were happening to you. ¹³ But insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, keep on rejoicing, so that when His glory [filled with His radiance and splendor] is revealed, you may rejoice with great joy. ¹⁴ If you are insulted *and* reviled for [bearing] the name of Christ, you are blessed [happy, with life-joy and comfort in God’s salvation regardless of your circumstances], because the Spirit of glory and of God is resting on you [and indwelling you—He whom they curse, you glorify].

1 Corinthians 8: 9-12

⁹ Only be careful that this liberty of yours [this power to choose] does not somehow become a stumbling block [that is, a temptation to sin] to the weak [in conscience]. ¹⁰ For if someone sees you, a person having ^[a]knowledge, ^[b]eating in an idol’s temple, then if he is weak, will he not be encouraged to eat things sacrificed to idols [and violate his own convictions]? ¹¹ For through your knowledge (spiritual maturity) this weak man is ruined [that is, he suffers in his spiritual life], the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² And when you sin against the brothers and sisters in this way and wound their weak conscience [by confusing them], you sin against Christ.

Acts 16:9

Then a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man from [the Roman province of] ^[a]Macedonia was standing and pleading with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” **10** And when he had seen the vision, ^[b]we (including Luke) tried to go on into Macedonia at once, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:14 A woman named ^[d]Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a dealer in ^[e]purple fabrics who was [already] a worshiper of God, listened to us; and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention *and* to respond to the things said by Paul. **15** And when she was baptized, along with her household, she pleaded with us, saying, “If you have judged me *and* decided that I am faithful to the Lord [a true believer], come to my house and stay.” And she persuaded us.

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Acts 16:29 Then the jailer called for torches and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, **30** and after he brought them out [of the inner prison], he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Acts 16:31-34

31 And they answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus [as your personal Savior and entrust yourself to Him] and you will be saved, you and your household [if they also believe].” **32** And they spoke the word of the Lord [concerning eternal salvation through faith in Christ] to him and to all who were in his house. **33** And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their *bloody* wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*. **34** Then he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, since he had believed in God with his entire family [accepting with joy what had been made known to them about the Christ].

Acts 17: 1-4

Now after Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. **2** And Paul entered the synagogue, as was his [a]custom, and for three Sabbaths he engaged in discussion *and* friendly debate with them from the Scriptures, **3** explaining and pointing out [scriptural evidence] that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and rise from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus, whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed).” **4** And some of them were persuaded *to believe* and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and many of the leading women.

Acts 17:11-12 Now these people were more noble *and* open-minded than those in Thessalonica, so they received the message [of salvation through faith in the Christ] with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. **12** As a result many of them became believers, together with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

Luke 24:27

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and [throughout] all the [writings of the] prophets, He explained *and* interpreted for them the things referring to Himself [found] in all the Scriptures.

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“The only way to recognize false teaching is to be intimately familiar with truth through the diligent study of the Word of God.” - gotquestions.org

Acts 17:5 But the [unbelieving] Jews became jealous, and taking along some thugs from [the lowlifes in] the market place, they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar

Acts 17:18 And some of the [b]Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to engage in conversation with him. And some said, “What could this idle babbler [with his eclectic, scrap-heap learning] have in mind to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities” —because he was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. **19** They took him and brought him to the [c]Areopagus (Hill of Ares, the Greek god of war), saying, “May we know what this [strange] new teaching is which you are proclaiming? **20** For you are bringing some startling *and* strange things to our ears; so we want to know what they mean.” **21** (Now all the Athenians and the foreigners visiting there used to spend their [leisure] time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

Acts 17:32 Now when they heard [the term] resurrection from the dead, [g]some mocked *and* sneered; but others said, “We will hear from you again about this matter.”

1 Corinthians 1:18-20

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness [absurd and illogical] to those who are perishing *and* spiritually dead [because they reject it], but to us who are being saved [by God’s grace] it is [the manifestation of] the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written *and* forever remains written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE [the philosophy of the philosophers],

AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER [who do not know Me] I WILL NULLIFY.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man (philosopher)? Where is the scribe (scholar)? Where is the debater (logician, orator) of this age? Has God not exposed the foolishness of this world’s wisdom?

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2 Timothy: 4:1-5

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word [as an official messenger]; be ready when the time is right and *even* when it is not [keep your sense of urgency, whether the opportunity seems favorable or unfavorable, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether welcome or unwelcome]; correct [those who err in doctrine or behavior], warn [those who sin], exhort *and* encourage [those who are growing toward spiritual maturity], with inexhaustible patience and [faithful] teaching. ³ For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine *and* accurate instruction [that challenges them with God’s truth]; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires *and* to support the errors they hold, ⁴ and will turn their ears away from the truth and will wander off into myths *and* man-made fictions [and will accept the unacceptable]. ⁵ But as for you, be clear-headed in every situation [stay calm and cool and steady], endure every hardship [without flinching], do the work of an evangelist, fulfill [the duties of] your ministry.

Revelation 3:15 -16

¹⁵ ‘I know your deeds, that you are ^[a] neither cold (invigorating, refreshing) nor hot (healing, therapeutic); I wish that you were ^[b] cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm (spiritually useless), and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth [rejecting you with disgust].

Hebrews 3:15

¹⁵ while it is said,
“TODAY [while there is still opportunity] IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME [in the rebellion in the desert at Meribah].”

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Bottom Line Key Points

1. “It is through many tribulations *and* hardships that we must enter the kingdom of God.”
2. A Follower of Jesus learns to find their peace **In Jesus** amidst tribulation and hardships.
3. The Gospel is often met with fiery opposition or humble reception as it spreads through the earth.
4. The Scriptures are the absolute authority that point to Jesus.