

## July 7th – Through Many Tribulations

*“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”*  
(Acts 14:22)

There is a very bad misconception that needs to be addressed. Some well-meaning people have been given the impression that all their problems will go away once they place their faith in Jesus. The good news is that our greatest problems do go away when we trust in Jesus. We don't have to worry about going to hell, we don't have to live in fear, and we can trust that the One living in us is greater than the one living in the world (1 John 4:4). Praise the Lord, Jesus took care of our greatest needs!

And yet, coming to Jesus doesn't mean that we're immune from adversity. The Christian life is not a cake walk – it is filled with trials and tribulations that we must endure until Jesus returns. Today's verse is taken from the lips of the Apostle Paul. After he and Barnabas had been forcibly removed from Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, the Bible says they re-entered those towns after a period of time in order to strengthen the disciples. Even after Paul had been nearly stoned to death (Acts 14:19), he kept going.

Because they refused to give up, the churches in those hostile regions were strengthened and leaders for each church were appointed. What trials and tribulations are you currently experiencing? Have you felt like throwing in the towel? I encourage you to remember that many great men and women of God have gone through much worse than what you're experiencing. And remember this – if you refuse to give up in the midst of your trial, God will bless you immensely on the other side (Gal. 6:9).