

Church – The Beginnings, Part 37
Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Iconium
Acts 14:1-7 | 07/16/2017
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
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Acts 14:1-7

In Iconium they entered the Jewish synagogue, as usual, and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they stayed there a long time and spoke **BOLDLY** for the LORD, who testified to the message of His grace by enabling them to do signs and wonders. ⁴ But the people of the city were divided, some siding with the Jews and others with the apostles. ⁵ When an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat and stone them, ⁶ they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian towns of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding countryside. ⁷ There they continued preaching the Gospel [of Christ]. (CSB)

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What can we learn from this?:

1. **Barnabas & Saul: Continued using the same “custom” or “manner” in their Synagogue-First STRATEGY.**
“For I am not ashamed of the GOSPEL of Christ, for it is the POWER of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek [ie. the Gentile].” ¹⁷ **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”** Rom. 1:16-17
This is God’s Methodology → Reach the Jews First. THEN, the Jews Reach the Gentiles
2. **Many Believed** – both Jews and Gentiles. God provided signs and wonders to confirm the Gospel message that Paul and Barnabas were preaching. **Despite the great persecution pressure** – Paul and Barnabas stayed quite a while, up to a point.
Lesson: Stay in the same place while the doors are open – until they kick you out or God directs you elsewhere (if there is no persecution). Allow God to Confirm His Word that you are Preaching (Prayerfully).
3. **Persecution (again): Acts 14:2 - But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and POISONED their minds against the brothers.**
Satan is **NOT** going to sit idly by and let folks slip out of his hands without a fight.
Satan uses tactics: **LIES, DECEPTION, INTIMIDATION, FEAR.**
He uses them to **keep people away from Jesus Christ and His Salvation/Rescue.**
So, how did Barnabas and Saul overcome this at Iconium?
They **persevered**, and kept on **Preaching the Gospel and Teaching the WORD.**
They only left when they were going to be **physically harmed or killed.**
[ref. Matt. 10:11-23]
4. **FAITHFULLY OBEDIENT:** When they left Iconium, they continued onward to find more open doors for the Gospel in Lycaonia → Lystra & Derbe (where Timothy comes from)
For us, will persecution, intimidation, lies, fear, and deception **keep us** from spreading the Gospel in our surrounding neighborhoods and region?
Or - will we be like Barnabas and Saul and push forward no matter what?