

Lystra
Message 6 in the series, "Faith under Fire"

"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." Acts 14:8-10 (NLT)

Note: *It is okay to ask God to do the impossible in someone's life.*

"Jesus looked at them intently and said, 'Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.'" Matthew 19:26 (NLT)

"Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it." James 4:2 (NLT)

"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." Acts 14:11-18 (NLT)

1. No matter how gifted they were or how much attention they received, Paul and Barnabas continually pointed people to Jesus — not to themselves.

"He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less." John 3:30 (NLT)

"Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth — a stranger, not your own lips."
Proverbs 27:2 (NLT)

"Don't praise yourself; let others do it!" Proverbs 27:21 (NLT)

"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 14:19-20 (NLT)

2. When Paul got knocked down, he didn't stay down — he got up.

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NLT)

"The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked." Proverbs 24:16 (NLT)

"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.

Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church. With prayer and fasting, they turned the elders over to the care of the Lord, in whom they had put their trust." Acts 14:21-23 (NLT)

3. Paul entrusted the gospel message to those who would pass it on to others!

"I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said." 1 Corinthians 15:3 (NLT)

"You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."

2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)

"Then they traveled back through Pisidia to Pamphylia. They preached the word in Perga, then went down to Attalia." Acts 14:24-25 (NLT)

"Finally, they returned by ship to Antioch of Syria, where their journey had begun. The believers there had entrusted them to the grace of God to do the work they had now completed. Upon arriving in Antioch, they called the church together and reported everything God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles, too. And they stayed there with the believers for a long time."

Acts 14:26-28 (NLT)

4. When you share what you have seen God do, it builds faith in others.

"Jesus said, 'No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.' So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to tell everyone about the great things Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed at what he told them." Mark 5:19-20 (NLT)

"Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done."

Psalms 105:1 (NLT)

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