

March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## *The Unstoppable Gospel*

*Acts 13:42-14:7*

God opened doors for Paul and Barnabas to share the message of salvation with both Jews and Gentiles in the Synagogues of Asia. The Word of the Lord spread widely, and those who were appointed to eternal life believed, but as the Gospel advanced, opposition increased; the Jews incited and stirred persecution against the messengers of God, driving them out of their district. Still, the disciples remain steadfast, filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

### **The Gospel Provides Opportunity for Salvation**

*Acts 14:1* “Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.”

❖ God provides salvation throughout history; He directs His disciples to proclaim the truth of the Gospel and opens the hearts of those who hear the Gospel.

◆ The Gospel is the call for the believer. “Now at... they entered together into the Jewish synagogue”

*Matthew 3:1-2* “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.””

*Mark 16:15-16*, “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. <sup>16</sup>Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’”

📖 1 Corinthians 1:21-24

*Romans 10:14-15*, “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

◆ The Gospel is the hope for eternal salvation. “They entered together...and spoke in such a way...”

*Acts 13:38-39* “Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this Man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup>and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.”

*Romans 10:3-4* “For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

📖 Romans 10:9-13

- ◆ The Gospel directs us to experience personal transformation in Christ. “...spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.”

*1 Corinthians 1:17-18 “For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup>For the Word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

📖 2 Corinthians 2:1-5

- ◆ The Gospel advances through intentional proclamation.

*Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*

## **The Proclamation of the Gospel Causes Opposition**

*Acts 14:2 “But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.”*

- ❖ The proclamation and transformation of the Gospel produce opposition.

- ◆ Our sinful nature rejects the truth of God. “*But the unbelieving Jews...*”

*Acts 13:45 “But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.”*

📖 John 3:16-21

- ◆ Religion promotes righteousness by merit; the Gospel confronts pride, sin, and self-righteousness.

*Acts 13:38-39 “Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this Man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup>and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.”*

*John 8:31-34 “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ <sup>33</sup>They answered Him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, “You will become free”?’ <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.’”*

- ◆ The enemy’s goal is to blind minds and harden hearts. “*The unbelieving...poisoned their minds...*”

*Acts 13:8 “But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.”*

*2 Corinthians 4:3-5 “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”*

- ◆ The culture in which we live rejects the truth of God.

📖 2 Timothy 4:1-4

*John 15:18-20 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the Word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My Word, they will also keep yours.”*

## The Believer Perseveres Because of the Gospel

*Acts 14:3-7* “So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. <sup>4</sup>But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. <sup>5</sup>When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, <sup>6</sup>they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, <sup>7</sup>and there they continued to preach the gospel.”

❖ The call of God for the believers, and their success in bringing people to Jesus, strengthened their resolve despite the opposition.

◆ Perseverance means continuing the mission. “...they remained for a long time...”

*Galatians 6:9* “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

*1 Corinthians 15:58* “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

◆ Perseverance means speaking boldly. “...Speaking boldly for the Lord...”

*Ephesians 6:19-20* “And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

*1 Timothy 1:7-8* “For God gave us a Spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share in suffering for the Gospel by the power of God.”

◆ Perseverance means trusting God's direction. “...They learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe...”

*Matthew 10:23* “When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

◆ Perseverance is a result of the strength of God in us.

*Acts 4:29-31* “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup>while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus. <sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10* “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

The Gospel cannot be stopped. God provides the opportunity for salvation, calls His people to proclaim the truth, and sustains them through opposition. From Iconium to Lystra and Derbe, the pattern remains: the Word of the Lord advances, hearts are transformed, and the disciples press on—filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

### Endnotes:

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