

Mission Report (Acts 14: 20-28) (Corporate Prayer in the Book of Acts)

- Last week Barnabas & Paul were sent out by the church to do the work of God
- They went to Cyprus, & there preached the gospel to those in the city of Salamis
- Many believed but there was persecution from the Jews, they go to the Gentiles
- Ch 14 they go Iconium & many Jews believed, but the Jews stirred up trouble
- Paul was nearly stoned to death, he got up & continued preaching: many believed
- They return to Antioch but not before strengthening & exhorting the new believers

I. Strengthened & Exhorted Them to Remain Steadfast in the Faith (14:22)

- Paul had nearly lost his life, now as he preached the Gospel many believed
 - Paul & Barnabas go back the way they had come strengthening & exhorting them
- 1) They exhort them to remain faithful – there were many dangers they faced

“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

II. They Appointed Elders in Every Church with Prayer and Fasting (14:23)

- They exhorted them to remain faithful and they appointed elders (23c)
- We don't know the details of how they appointed them but they fasted & prayed
- Luke adds they “commended them to the Lord” – in a flow of prayer and fasting
- Picture of Paul & Barnabas & possibly the church wrestling in prayer for elders

III. An Encouraging Missionary Report (14:26-28)

- V 24-26 ‘completion of their ministry’ after several stops they return to Antioch
- Vs 26 b ‘the commitment of the sending church, Antioch who commended them
- What the Antioch church, Paul & Barnabas had committed to God, He had done
- They rejoiced for the shared victory (v.27) Paul and Barnabas give their report

• They reported all God did & how God had opened doors of faith for the Gentiles