

“Signs & Wonders Lead To False Understanding & A Witness Of Clarity!”

Acts 14:8-18

And in **Lystra** a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard **Paul Speaking (Rhema)**. **Paul, observing (eye contact)** him **intently (spiritually)** and **seeing (discerning)** that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, *“Stand up straight on your feet!”* And he leaped and walked (**Signs & Wonders of Healing**). Now when the people saw what **Paul** had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, *“The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”* And **Barnabas** they called **Zeus**, and **Paul** they called **Hermes**, because he was the chief speaker. Then the **Priest of Zeus (Propolis)**, whose **Temple** was in front of their city, brought oxen and garland wreaths to the gates, intending to offer sacrifice with the multitudes. But when the **Apostles Barnabas and Paul** heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, *“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and **Preach (the Good News)** to you that you should **turn (repent)** from these **useless things** to the **Living God, Who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, Who (God) in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless, He did not leave Himself without Witness (Providence – Natural Revelation), in that He did Good, sending us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.**”* And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them. **Acts 14:8-18 (NKJV)**

Q

**“Where Did Paul & Barnabas Go After Leaving Persecution & A Remnant of the Faith
In Both Pisidian Antioch & Iconium in the Province of Perga?”**

A

To The Twin Towns of Lystra & Derbe in the Province of Lycaonia
... And when a violent attempt (in **Iconium of Perga**) was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone **Them (Paul & Barnabas)**, **They** became aware of it and fled to **Lystra** and **Derbe**, cities of **Lycaonia**, and to the surrounding region ... **Acts 14:5-7a**

Q

“What Did Paul & Barnabas As Faithful Witnesses Do Upon Entering This New Town?”

A

1) Presentation of the Gospel to Elicit a 2) Decision

... And **They** were **Preaching** the **Gospel** there (**Lystra**) ... **Acts 14:7b**

Q

“Who Was Specifically Listening To The Gospel Message In Lystra That Day?”

A

A Crippled Man From Birth

... And in **Lystra** a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting,
a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

This man heard **Paul Speaking (Rhema)** ...

Acts 14:8-9a

Q

**“What Does Paul Do In The Power Of The Spirit As He Preaches
The Good News Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ?”**

(Continued Over)

A

He Intently Listens To The Voice Of The Holy Spirit
& Intently Searched His Audience By Looking At Each Person
To Discern The Prompting Of God's Will?"

... Paul, observing (eye contact) him intently (spiritually)
and seeing (discerning) that he had faith to be healed, ...

Acts 14:9b

NOTE

Four Things Are Important While Preaching & Teaching The Gospel

- 1) Observing (Direct Eye Contact)
- 2) Intently (Searching The Spiritual Realm)
- 3) Seeing (Discerning In The Spirit)

Q

*"What Does The Witness For Christ Do At The Moment
When The Will of God Is Made Know To Them?"*

A

4) Action (Boldly, Decisively, Immediately, & Powerfully)
... Paul said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" ...

Acts 14:10a

Q

"What Is The Outcome Of True Faith?"

A

Deliverance, Healing, Repentance, & Restoration

... And he leaped and walked (Signs & Wonders of Healing) ...

Acts 14:10b

Q

"What Was The Outcome Of This Miracle of Faith (Sign & Wonder)?"

A

Continued Spiritual Misunderstanding & Interpretation

... Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. Acts 14:11-12

NOTE

The Lycaonian Tradition of Religious Belief Is Tied To The Greek Pantheon of Gods

Zeus – Chief God of Mount Olympus

Hermes – Messenger God

Further, The City Of Lystra Was The Site of the Temple of the God Zeus

NOTE

The Lycaonian Tradition of Religious Belief Is To Bring A Thanksgiving Offering To The Gods
For Their Generosity In Sending A Sign & Wonder of Healing Among The People

... Then the Priest of Zeus (Propolis), whose Temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garland wreaths to the gates, intending to offer sacrifice with the multitudes. Acts 14:13

Q

*"Why Did The People of this Region in Lycaonia Still Not Understand
About The One True God Paul Was Preaching About?"*

A

Because They Had No Background In Judaism Or In The Old Testament Scriptures
Instead, They Rely On The What They Know, "God For Protection" – "Zeus Propolis"

Q

**“How Do You Preach The Full Gospel Message To Someone
When They Have No Background In The Bible Or Biblical History?”**

A

You Have To Start With **Natural Revelation (General)** (Faith, History, & Science)
Since The Creation Of The Universe & The Earth
* [**Divine Revelation (Special)**– Scripture & Holy Spirit] *

NOTE

Start With Natural Revelation (Faith, History, & Science)
This Will Provide A Springboard Of Common Knowledge To Build In The Bible,
Starting With The Old Testament & Building A Bridge To The New Testament
& Then To The Modern Times In Which We Live

NOTE

Paul & Barnabas Use Natural Revelation (Faith, History, & Science)
In **Four Phases** To Establish **Common Ground** With The **Lycaonians**

- 1) **We Are All Humans – God Is Wholly Other**
- 2) **We Must All Repent – Turn Away From Ourselves & Our Ways To God & His Ways**
- 3) **God Is One & Living – He Is The Sole Author Of Creation & Reigns Over All**
- 4) **Goodness & Providence For All – God Is Forgiving, Gracious, Just, & Provides**

Natural Revelation

- 1) **We Are All Humans - God Is Wholly Other**

... But when the **Apostles Barnabas** and **Paul** heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, *“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you,”* ... **Acts 14:14-15a**

Natural Revelation

2) **We Must All Repent – Turn Away From Ourselves & Our Ways To God & His Ways**
*We **Preach** (the **Good News**) to you that you should **turn** (**repent**) from these **useless things** to the **Living God**,”* ... **Acts 14:15b**

Natural Revelation

3) **God Is One & Living – He Is The Sole Author Of Creation & Reigns Over All**
... *The **Living God**, **Who** made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them,”* ...

Acts 14:15c

Natural Revelation

4) **Goodness & Providence For All – God Is Forgiving, Gracious, Just, & Provides**
... *“**Who** (**God**) in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless, **He** did not leave **Himself** without **Witness** (**Providence – Natural Revelation**), in that **He** did **Good**, sending us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”*... **Acts 14:16-17**

Q

“Do The Apostles Ever Use This Method Again?”

A

Yes, Time & Time Again By
James, John, Jude, Peter, & Paul
(**See Especially Paul In The City Of Athens**
Recorded By Luke In Acts 17:16-34)

NOTE

Today, We As God’s Faithful People Must Use Even More
This **Time-Tested Method** of **Natural Revelation**
For **Paul Warned Us About These Last Days**

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the Power of God to Salvation for Everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the Righteousness of God is Revealed from Faith to Faith; as it is written, *“The Just Shall Live By Faith!”* For the Wrath of God is Revealed from Heaven against all Ungodliness and Unrighteousness of men, who Suppress the Truth in Unrighteousness, because what may be Known of God is Manifest in them, for God has Shown it to them. For since the Creation of the World His Invisible Attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His Eternal Power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the Truth of God for the Lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who Is Blessed Forever. Amen. For this Reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful, who, knowing the Righteous Judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 1:16-32 (NKJV)

Q

*“If We Are Faithful To Implement
This Times Tested Method Of Natural Revelation,
Will The Outcome Be Assured?”*

A – YES!

Q

*“Will It Be Easy Going When We
Preach & Teach This Natural Revelation About God?”*

A – NO!

... And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

Acts 14:18

*“Let Us Be Alert, Bold, Diligent, Discerning,
Prayerful, Studious, & Ready To Act,
So That, God May Make His Will Known
To Us Concerning Others Around Us!
Then Let Us Yield To God’s Indwelling Spirit Within Us,
And Follow His Leading To Choose
The Appropriate Method To Share His Good News,
With All He Appoints & Places In Our Daily Paths!”*