



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Acts 14	Title:	Get Back Up and Go Back In!
Author	Ps Joey Asher Tan		
Summary of Chapter	Acts 14 describes how Paul persisted with preaching the Gospel despite facing persecution in Iconium and Lystra, where he got stoned and nearly died.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
<i>²⁰But as the believers gathered around him (Paul), he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas... [and] ²²they 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.</i>	<p>The recurring theme in this chapter was how Paul was relentless in his preaching despite facing violent persecution (he was stoned twice!). A turning point was after Paul got beaten unconscious, dragged outside the town and left for dead, believers circled around him. Then Paul got back up and kept advancing the Gospel. Wow!</p> <p>Last December, I was invited to give a speech at an event held in Grace @ Tanglin. The organisers gave me the green light to share about my faith as there were non-Christians in the audience. After all, it was held in church premises. Before I even mentioned “Christ” or “God”—as soon as I introduced myself as a pastor in this church—I felt the atmosphere in Galilee Hall change; the air of hostility was palpable. Just minutes into my speech, someone stood up and said, “We didn’t come here to listen to a pastor.” A few minutes later, another person stood up and said, “You need to get off the stage now.” Galilee felt like Iconium and Lystra. I could barely finish my speech. And after the event, someone from the crowd confronted me. I tried to be cool, calm and composed, but frankly, I was shaken, discouraged and embarrassed. I gathered all my remaining courage and went to the lunch reception, mentally prepared to face the second onslaught. To my surprise, a few believers came to affirm me. Two even said they was looking for a church and wanted to visit Grace Assembly! Frankly, I took a few weeks to get over it. I processed the episode with my wife, and I was open to receive ministry from my colleagues when I told them about it. It felt a little like what Paul experienced when “believers gathered around him”. And maybe like Paul, that’s how I found the courage to get back in again.</p> <p>The fear is real and the opposition is nasty, but the conviction to continue sharing my faith and live out my calling is stronger than ever. This experience won’t be the last time I will face opposition for being a pastor and a Christian. I know I am not alone and I need not be afraid. May the Lord help you and I get back up and go back in.</p>

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	How would you have responded to those folks? Have you had a similar experience before? Is there someone (whom has faced opposition) whom you can encourage?
Youth:	Do you know someone in your school who may be against Christianity? How can you pray for him/her? How can you prepare yourself to stand up in the face of opposition?
Child:	Like Paul and Barnabas, there are many missionaries who face strong opposition on a daily basis. Ask your parents to share real stories of such people, then pray for them.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding me that I can be relentless in sharing about and living for Jesus Christ. May I seize every divine appointment to do so and be emboldened by the Spirit to press on despite opposition. In Jesus’ name, amen!
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus’ Name I/we pray. Amen.