

# Endure to The End

## Acts 14:22 — ESV

“Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through *many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*”

## Context of Acts 14:22

Acts 14 records the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas.

Throughout this journey they preached the gospel, planted churches, and faced intense opposition.

Just before Acts 14:22, Paul was stoned by a mob in Lystra and left for dead outside the city (Acts 14:19). Most people would expect Paul to tell new believers that following Jesus would make life easier.

Instead, Paul returns to strengthen the churches and tells them:

“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

Paul is teaching that suffering is not unusual for Christians. It is part of the normal Christian life.

The goal of his message is not to discourage believers but to prepare them and strengthen them to remain faithful.

## Historical Context

The early church existed in a hostile environment.

The Roman Empire tolerated many religions, but Christians proclaimed that Jesus alone is Lord. This often brought persecution from both Jewish leaders and Roman authorities.

Believers could lose jobs, family relationships, social standing, freedom, and even their lives because of their faith.

When the apostles preached the gospel, they did not promise comfort, wealth, or safety.

They promised Christ.

And they taught that suffering would often accompany faithfulness to Him.

Acts 14:22 reveals what the early church understood:

Following Jesus is worth it, even when it costs us something.

## **1. Trials and Troubles Are Promised**

The apostles never taught believers to expect an easy life.

They taught believers to expect suffering and remain faithful through it.

### **Supporting Verses**

#### **Acts 14:22**

Paul teaches that believers enter the kingdom through many tribulations.

#### **John 16:33**

Jesus tells His disciples that they will have trouble in the world but can take heart because He has overcome the world.

#### **2 Timothy 3:12**

Paul says that everyone who desires to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

## **2. You Have an Enemy and You Have a Helper**

The Christian life is not neutral.

There is an enemy who wants believers to abandon Christ during suffering.

But there is also a Helper who gives strength to endure.

### **You Have an Enemy & Helper**

#### **1 Peter 5:8-9**

Peter describes the devil as an adversary seeking to devour believers.

#### **Revelation 12:10-11**

Believers overcome Satan through the blood of the Lamb and their testimony.

## **You Have a Helper**

### **John 14:16-17**

Jesus promises another Helper, the Holy Spirit.

### **Romans 8:26**

The Spirit helps believers in their weakness.

### **Hebrews 13:5-6**

God promises never to leave nor forsake His people.

### **Matthew 28:20**

Jesus promises to be with His disciples always.

## **3. You Need to Be Motivated to Finish Well**

Suffering can tempt believers to quit.

The New Testament continually points believers to the hope that lies ahead.

God calls His people not merely to start well but to finish well.

**We should always carefully take seriously the warnings and rewards that are promised to believers.**

### **Supporting Verses**

#### **Galatians 6:9**

Paul tells believers not to grow weary because they will reap a harvest if they do not give up.

#### **Romans 8:18**

Paul says present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed.

#### **James 1:12**

The one who remains steadfast under trial will receive the crown of life.

## **Revelation 21:4**

God will wipe away every tear, and suffering will be no more.

## **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Believers are called to be steadfast and immovable because their labor in the Lord is never in vain.

# **Application**

Acts 14:22 teaches a truth that every believer must understand:

“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

Suffering is not proof that God has abandoned His people.

Often it is proof that we are walking the same road Christ walked.

But believers do not suffer alone.

We have:

- A Savior who suffered before us.
- A Spirit who helps us.
- A Kingdom waiting for us.

Therefore, continue in the faith.

Stand firm in Christ.

And remember that beyond every tribulation stands the King and His eternal kingdom.