



***Part 3 - Refusing to Throw in the Towel***  
**August 20, 2023**

The ultimate lesson in resilience is bouncing back to glorify God and serve others. Share about someone that has demonstrated this type of resilience?

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.**

How does this passage help us understand that “God has always grown the church on the backs of suffering believers”?

**Read Acts 13:1-5.**

This passage sets the scene for the first missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas certainly recognized their calling to spread the Gospel. Have you ever felt a clear calling from the Lord to do something? Have you ever second-guessed a calling on your life?

**Read Acts 13:13-14, 44-45, 49-52.**

Paul and Barnabas walked away from persecution in Pisidian Antioch. Has there been a time when you wanted to walk away from God or church? How do you know when it is right to walk away and when it is time to stick it out?

**Read Acts 14:5-7, 8-13, 19-22.**

What kept Paul (and Barnabas) from throwing in the towel after being stoned in Lystra?

**Read Acts 15:36**

The first missionary journey was focused on evangelism. What motivated this second journey?

**A Reliable Game Plan for Resilience**

1. Consider the sufferings of Christ.

**Read Hebrews 12:3 & 1 Peter 4:13.** To some degree, we recognize the sufferings of Christ; How should revealing His glory motivate us to rejoice in our suffering?

2. Comfort others with the lessons you’ve learned.

**Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.** Do you have a story of being comforted by God in times of trouble? How can sharing your story encourage others experiencing various troubles?

3. Call on others for prayer support.

**Read 2 Corinthians 1:10-11.**

“Nothing of eternal significance ever happens apart from prayer.” - Jerry Falwell, Sr.

Is the quote encouraging or convicting (or both)? What part has prayer played in times of your personal resilience?

Take time to share prayer requests. Focus on specific needs for courage to share the Gospel and to endure persecution that may result (or already has resulted).