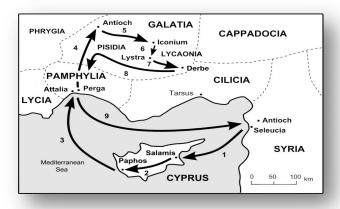
July 31, 2022





Influencing people and pleasing God requires...

1. A will to serve with your spiritual gift. (Acts 14:1, 21-25)

Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 12:7

A spiritual gift is...

(examples in Acts 14: Prophesy, Teaching, Encouragement, Leadership)

- "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10
- "6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:6–8

2. A will to <u>serve boldly</u>. (Acts 14:1-7; 4:19-20)

"... There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed....So, Paul and Barnabus spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord." Acts 14:1,3

Effective boldness requires...

- ... help from the Lord (Acts 14:2)
- ... a longer-term perspective (Acts 14:2; 24-25)
- ... personal preparation (Acts 14:3; 19:8)
- ... wisdom (Acts 14:6; Matthew 10:23)

3. A will to serve with humility. (Acts 14:8-18)

Acts 4:19-20; 14:26-28

Humility is ...

1 Peter 1:5-6; James 4:6, 10

Our humility allows us...

- ... to see the needs of other people
- ... to realize God is the one changing lives 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Romans 1:18-20; 12:1-2; Acts 17:22-31

4. A will to serve with persistence. (Acts 14:19-21)

"19Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They **stoned Paul** and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead...21...Then they returned to Lystra..." Acts 14:19, 21

5. A will to serve with <u>care and commitment</u>.

Acts 14:21-23; John 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12

"21 They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then **they returned** to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²²**strengthening** the disciples and **encouraging** them to remain true to the faith." Acts 14:21-22