Say "Yes," Don't Quit … One Day your Test can become Your Testimony

NorthRidge Church
Pastor Harold Butler
October 11, 2026

Acts 13 & 14; Romans 12:1-2

1. Paul and Barnabas' _____ … Acts 13:2

   We are all _____

   a. _____ and _____ … 1 Cor. 1:9, 1 Pet. 2:9

   b. God's _____ … 2 Tim. 1:9

   c. _____ out our calling … 1 Cor. 7:17

2. Paul and Barnabas' _____ … Acts 13:42-52

   a. _____ … Acts 13:42-44, 48-49, 52; 14:10, 21, 27

   b. _____ … Acts 13:45, 50; 14:2, 5-6, 8-18, 19-20

3. The Message of:

   a. _____ … Acts 14:21-22a

   b. _____ … Acts 14:22b, John 16:33

4. Paul's _____ … 2 Cor. 11:25, Phil. 4:11-13, 2 Cor. 1:3-4

So What …

When you say "yes" to God's call, you can expect a profound shift in your daily life, God's _____, _____, and personal _____. You also will face _____, _____ and _____ that will test your faith.

There is absolutely no _____ in saying yes to God's call… The _____ is in saying no and then living life on your own.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE SWEET AROMA OF PRAYER…AND GOD'S POWER

When prayers feel lost in difficult seasons, Scripture reveals a different reality; they do not vanish. Gathered in golden bowls before God's throne, every prayer rises as a sweet-smelling aroma, fully valued and savored by the Creator.

*The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp and **golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of the saints**. **Rev. 5:8***

An angel with a golden censer stands at the altar. He is given much incense (the prayers of all God's people) which is then infused with fire from the altar and hurled to the earth; …"*and then came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. **Rev. 8:3-5**"*

The fire on the altar was originally lit by God Himself and was never allowed to go out. It represents God's absolute holiness. When your prayers are mixed with this fire, it's symbolic of God purifying your weak, imperfect words and infusing them with His perfect and holy will. The altar fire also represents the power of the Cross and the Resurrection. Our prayers become backed by the work of Jesus and they return to earth with authority because they are stamped with Christ's victory. Symbolically, thunder echoes the authoritative voice of God. Lightning brings divine illumination and breakthroughs. Earthquakes shake and shift unmovable situations.

Place your prayers into the golden bowl. Leave them in God's hands, knowing He sees and values them. Welcome the "fire", asking God to purify your motives and align your requests with His perfect timing and power. Keep praying, as the heavenly bowls fill and God's fire responds. Submit the outcomes to God. Leave your time of prayer with absolute confidence that God is actively working behind the scenes and that His response will shake things up with breakthroughs, divine directions, and shifting circumstances.

Do these scriptures impact how you will pray today?

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Acts 13 & 14; Romans 12:1-2

1. Paul and Barnabas' **Calling** … Acts 13:2

   We are all **Called**

   a. **Salvation** and **Identity …** 1 Cor. 1:9, 1 Pet. 2:9
   b. God's **Purpose** … 2 Tim. 1:9
   c. **Live** out our calling … 1 Cor. 7:17

2. Paul and Barnabas' **Test** … Acts 13:42-52

   a. **Blessing** … Acts 13:42-44, 48-49, 52; 14:10, 21, 27
   b. **Conflict** … Acts 13:45, 50; 14:2, 5-6, 8-18, 19-20

3. The Message of:

   a. **Encouragement** … Acts 14:21-22a
   b. **Truth** … Acts 14:22b, John 16:33

4. Paul's **Testimony** … 2 Cor. 11:25, Phil. 4:11-13, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

So What …

*When you say "yes" to God's call, you can expect a profound shift in your daily life, God's **blessings**, **peace**, and personal **purpose**. You also will face **resistance**, **obstacles** and **persecution** that will test your faith.*

*There is absolutely no **risk** in saying yes to God's call… The **risk** is in saying no and then living life on your own.*

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THE SWEET AROMA OF PRAYER…AND GOD'S POWER

When prayers feel lost in difficult seasons, Scripture reveals a different reality; they do not vanish. Gathered in golden bowls before God's throne, every prayer rises as a sweet-smelling aroma, fully valued and savored by the Creator.

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