

Series: Power From On High
Title: The Gospel Remains Unstoppable, Part 1
Lesson: 144

Text: Acts 28:1-15
Date: November 8, 2026

Five ways God guarantees the advancement of the gospel:

1. By extending unexpected _____.

Acts 28:1 When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.

"brought safely through"

2 The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.

"extraordinary kindness."

2. By providing divine _____.

3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand.

The hallmark of biblical leadership is never status, it's

_____.

Matthew 23:11–12 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 18:4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand.

Living a righteous life does not make us

_____ from adversity.

"fastened"

4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live."

5 However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

6 But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

3. By opening new opportunities for _____.

7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days.

"courteously"

8 And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery;

and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him.

9 After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured.

Stormy trials don't throw God's plan off course, they

_____.

10 They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed.

"us"

"all"

11 At the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead.

"Twin Brothers"

12 After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. 13 From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

4. By refreshing weary saints with _____.

14 There we found some brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome. 15 And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

Storm → Shipwreck → Viper → Father → Revival → Provisions

Why does this observation of sequence matter?

1. **It gives us _____ when circumstances don't make sense.**

2. **It gives us _____ when our plans seem sidetracked.**

3. **It makes us _____ in unexpected opportunities.**

4. **It gives us _____ when we can't see what comes next.**

Today's circumstances are often God's preparation for tomorrow's opportunities.

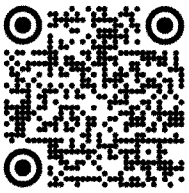
Discussion Guide

1. Why is it so dangerous to interpret difficult circumstances as evidence of God's displeasure and how should we respond when we don't understand why God allows certain difficulties?

2. What are some practical ways we can demonstrate humility by serving others, regardless of our position or responsibilities?

3. Why is Christian fellowship so important, especially during difficult seasons? How can your small group become more intentional about strengthening and encouraging one another?

4. What is one truth about God's providence that you want to remember the next time your circumstances take an unexpected turn?



Meet the staff



Online Giving



Weekly Announcemen

ANSWERS: kindness, protection, humility, immune, ministry, are the course, fellowship, confidence, patience, faithful, hope