

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

September 2025

Greetings all. Well, it is almost fall, and hurricane season is in full force. The amount of rain we have had this year seems to be more than in the past few years, although no direct hurricane hits so far this year. I haven't had to turn on my sprinkler system at all this year, and the grass is green, and the roses are blooming. That is good because, as I look around at everything that is going on in this country and the world, the enemy is rearing its ugly head on many fronts. What that tells me is that we are on the brink of a breakthrough! Of course, I am also doing a little study on Paul, and his life so full of persecution. Then I take a step back and say, we are nowhere near his state, even in current times. This month I want to look at some of the scriptures of Paul's life and persecution and also how he managed through them. He is an example of one who finished the race well.

The Apostle Paul faced persecution multiple times throughout his ministry, as recorded in the New Testament. Below is a partial list of scriptures where his persecutions are mentioned and how he was rescued from them: I want to encourage you to dig deeper into these on your own.

1. Acts 9:23-25

- **Context:** After Paul's conversion, he began preaching in Damascus, and the Jews plotted to kill him. He had to escape by being lowered in a basket through an opening in the city wall.
- **Rescue:** His followers lowered him in a basket through an opening in the city wall at night, allowing him to escape the city.

2. Acts 13:45, 50

- **Context:** In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul faced opposition from the Jews who were jealous of the crowds he attracted. They stirred up persecution against him, leading to his expulsion from the region.
- **Rescue:** They shook the dust off their feet as a testimony against the city and moved on to Iconium, continuing their mission elsewhere.

3. Acts 14:5-6

- **Context:** In Iconium, Paul and Barnabas faced threats of violence and were forced to flee to Lystra and Derbe.
- **Rescue:** They fled to the cities of Lystra and Derbe, escaping the imminent threat.

4. Acts 14:19

- **Context:** In Lystra, Paul was stoned by a crowd incited by Jews from Antioch and Iconium. He was dragged out of the city and left for dead, but he survived.
- **Rescue:** The disciples gathered around him, and Paul got up and went back into the city. The next day, he left for Derbe with Barnabas.

5. Acts 16:19-24

- **Context:** In Philippi, Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned after casting out a spirit from a slave girl. They were miraculously freed when an earthquake opened the prison doors.
- **Rescue:** While they were praying and singing hymns, an earthquake shook the prison, opening the doors and loosening their chains. The jailer, seeing the situation, was about to kill himself, but Paul stopped him. Afterward, the jailer and his household converted to Christianity, and Paul and Silas were released by the magistrates.

6. Acts 17:5-9

- **Context:** In Thessalonica, a mob incited by jealous Jews attacked the house of Jason, where Paul was staying, forcing him to flee to Berea.
- **Rescue:** The believers in Thessalonica sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, where they continued their ministry.

7. Acts 17:13-14

- **Context:** In Berea, Paul faced opposition from Jews who came from Thessalonica. He had to leave the city, while Silas and Timothy stayed behind.
- **Rescue:** The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, and he was escorted to Athens while Silas and Timothy stayed behind.

8. Acts 18:12-17

- **Context:** In Corinth, Paul was brought before the proconsul Gallio by Jews, accusing him of teaching against the law, but Gallio dismissed the case.
- **Rescue:** The Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, telling him not to be afraid because He was with him, and that no one would harm him. Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months, teaching the word of God.

9. Acts 19:23-41

- **Context:** In Ephesus, a riot broke out led by a silversmith named Demetrius, who felt threatened by Paul's teachings. The mob dragged Paul's companions into the theater, but Paul was prevented from entering by his friends.
- **Rescue:** Paul's companions and some officials of the province who were friends of Paul advised him not to enter the theater, thus avoiding potential harm.

10. Acts 21:27-36. Acts 23:12-24

- **Context:** In Jerusalem, Paul was seized by a mob in the temple, who accused him of defiling it by bringing Gentiles inside. He was beaten and almost killed before Roman soldiers intervened.
- **Rescue:** Roman soldiers intervened, arresting Paul and carrying him to the barracks for his safety. Later, when a plot to kill Paul was discovered, the Roman commander arranged for Paul to be transferred to Caesarea under heavy guard.

11. 2 Corinthians 11:23-27, 2 Timothy 3:10-11

- **Context:** Paul lists his sufferings, including multiple imprisonments, beatings, and dangers from various groups and circumstances. Paul recalls the persecutions and sufferings he endured at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, emphasizing that the Lord rescued him from them all.
- **Rescue:** Despite these hardships, Paul attributes his rescue and endurance to the Lord, who delivered him from all his persecutions.

These passages illustrate the various trials and persecutions Paul faced as he spread the Gospel. But, throughout all these accounts, Paul's rescues demonstrate a combination of divine intervention, the support of fellow believers, strategic retreats, and his unwavering faith in God's protection.

So, how can we utilize his example in our lives today? Paul's ministry is one of the richest examples in the Bible of perseverance, faith, adaptability, and boldness in the face of adversity. His "success" wasn't measured by wealth or comfort, but by **faithfulness to God's calling** and the impact he had on others for Christ.

Paul's success was faithfulness to God's call, not avoidance of hardship. Today, we can succeed by boldly standing for Christ, enduring trials with faith, adapting wisely, mentoring others, keeping an eternal perspective, pursuing unity, and relying on the Spirit. Let's look into a practical step-by-step guide for daily living (like a "Paul-inspired action plan")? That way, it can be something you can apply consistently.

Paul-Inspired Action Plan for Daily Living

Step 1: Start the Day in God's Presence

- **Scripture:** *"Pray without ceasing."* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- **Action:** Begin every morning with prayer and Scripture. Ask God for boldness, wisdom, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
- **Example Practice:** 10 minutes of prayer + 10 minutes of Bible reading before checking your tablet or starting work.

Step 2: Speak Boldly, but Lovingly

- **Scripture:** *"I am not ashamed of the gospel."* (Romans 1:16)
- **Action:** Look for one opportunity each day to share encouragement, truth, or testimony.
- **Example Practice:** Send a jmail/text with a Bible verse, speak kindly to a boss, co-worker, or cellie, defend your faith when challenged—with gentleness (1 Peter 3:15).

Step 3: Respond to Hardship with Faith

- **Scripture:** *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed... persecuted, but not abandoned."* (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)
- **Action:** When something goes wrong (criticism, stress, setback, parole denial), pause, pray, and turn it into a testimony instead of a complaint. Make lemonade out of the lemons!
- **Example Practice:** Keep a journal where you record trials AND how God provided.

Step 4: Be Adaptable, but Stay Anchored

- **Scripture:** *"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."* (1 Corinthians 9:22)
- **Action:** Adjust your approach depending on the situation, but never compromise biblical truth.
- **Example Practice:** In social situations, share things that connect with culture but still point to Christ; in conversations, meet people where they are emotionally/spiritually. Prepare that not all will receive what you say, but say it anyway. Remember God's word never returns void!

Step 5: Invest in Others

- **Scripture:** *"What you have heard from me... entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* (2 Timothy 2:2)
- **Action:** Be intentional about mentoring or encouraging at least one person.
- **Example Practice:** Call or meet with someone weekly to pray together, or jmail/text encouragement to a younger believer.

Step 6: Keep Your Eyes on Eternity

- **Scripture:** *"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."* (2 Corinthians 4:17)
- **Action:** Remind yourself daily that success isn't measured by wealth or recognition but by faithfulness to God.
- **Example Practice:** End each night reflecting on this question: "Did I live today in a way that honors Christ and impacts eternity?"

Step 7: Promote Unity and Reconciliation

- **Scripture:** *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* (Romans 12:18)
- **Action:** Be a peacemaker no matter where you are prison, at home, work, or in the community.
- **Example Practice:** Refuse gossip, bridge gaps between people, and show respect even to those who disagree with you.

Step 8: Rely on the Holy Spirit Daily

- **Scripture:** *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."* (Galatians 5:25)
- **Action:** Don't make decisions in your own strength—pray before you speak, act, or choose.
- **Example Practice:** Before any big decision (even small ones), whisper: "Holy Spirit, guide me."

Summary Prayer for Daily Living:

"Lord, like Paul, help me to live boldly, endure hardship faithfully, adapt wisely, mentor others, keep an eternal perspective, build unity, and walk in step with Your Spirit today and every day."

Blessings to all of you, and always represent Him well in all you do. Keep the faith. Praying for all of you, that all your needs are met and desires fulfilled.

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

Christ's Heart In Every Felon



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