



How to See God in Your Life

Acts 14:8-20 | Ryan Pfeiffer | July 5, 2026

INTRO. We're in Acts 14... Quick Overview— MAP... Paul/ Barnabas travel...

- P. Antioch—> (80mi) Iconium—> (20mi) Lystra/ Derbe—> Return (600mi)

They face conspiracies, plots, resistance, stoning, mobs, and near death...

Yet thru it all... Many believe! Gospel is spreading! God is revealing himself...

ILLUS. I sat w/ an earnest college student... Why doesn't God reveal himself?

1. Ever wonder that? If God's so real... why not show Himself... make it easy?

- Honestly... the whole FAITH THING can feel like a lot of games...

FOCUS. Acts 14 shows us how God reveals himself... so we can believe!

WE PICK UP THE JOURNEY IN LYSTRA 8 In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed 10 and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

Let's ask... How does God reveal himself here? First thing... A miracle!!

Before the man is healed... he has faith... before he has faith he listens to a message... before he listens to a message... a messenger has travelled!

- A messenger... By this time Paul has travelled 700mi!
- A message... Paul is sharing the gospel... good news about Jesus.

Romans 10:17 faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

3. Thru Faith by listening to the gospel... WHY? Helps us recognize God!

4. By Responding... Stand up on your feet!

In a way this mans experience is a parable for how to see God!

Which comes first... the man's healing or the faith?

Well if God did a miracle for me then I'd believe.... REALLY?

WORLD VIEWS. 11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

ILLUS. Ovid in his epic poem Metamorphoses tells- story of Zeus/ Hermes...

1. Show up as strangers... no one welcomes them.
2. An elderly couple named Baucis/ Philemon welcome them. Very poor.
3. Zeus/ Hermes destroy village and transform poor home into Marble temple.

Check this out... they see the miracle... rather than wow Jesus!... Wow Zeus!

They have a pre-existing World View/ Framework for seeing the world/ reality

For God to reveal himself he has to breakthrough our world view...

That's where the Gospel comes in... it's God's World View... but first... Yours?

- Secular Naturalism... "Science is King"... Material universe is all there is.
- Star Wars World View... "Use the force" and actualize your potential...
- Netflix World View... Expressive Individualism... "Choose your own reality".

What is the lens thru which you see everything?

NOT WITHOUT TESTIMONY. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: 15 "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. 16 In the past, he let all nations go their own way. 17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." 18 Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

Paul begins to construct a Gospel World View for us:

1. There is a God... we are all on the same page about that... but not many!
2. We can know God through Creation/ Nature...

See... the ancient world worshipped Nature... Sun God... Weather God.

Kinda like the Scientific Naturalist... who says Nature is it... Nature is King.

Paul's saying the goodness of Creation is pointing to the Goodness of God.

- the beauty of the sunset, goodness of a Taco, the love of friend...

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

His point is rather than turning toward God we have 'gone our own way'

That brings us to the sharp point of the Gospel and how God shows himself

SACRIFICIAL LOVE. 19 Then 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. 20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

The craziest part of this moment is that Paul gets up and goes back!

God is revealing himself thru the people he sends into our life to share Jesus

The Word for Testimony... is ἀμάρτυρον (amártyron). Root. Martyr...

- Word for witness in Bible ... where we get martyr...

God reveals himself through the sacrificial love...

- When we lay our lives down even in small ways... shows God's love
- ILLUS. Christians in Rome during Plague... Moravian missionaries- slavery!

God has revealed himself through Jesus...

- Thru his incredible teachings... love your enemies... blessed are the meek
- Thru his healing power... even non-christians testify to like Josephus...
- Thru his death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin... Josephus...

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God has revealed himself and for 2K yrs has sent his messengers out to tell...

A Father recently testified to Jesus' resurrection at service for his daughter

Allowing his daughters tragic death to be a moment to testify to the gospel.

What is holding you back from believing... from exploring this claim?

God is pursuing you... calling out to you...