

SHINE Devotional

Week 45 – Lesson 1



Our God Can

Scripture reading Acts 13:14-16

“But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience. The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.”

We serve a God that can do anything. Acts 13 is the record of Paul’s first message in Pisidia. As he stood in the synagogue, he began to declare all the miraculous things that God had done for the nation of Israel. He first recounted the story of Israel’s deliverance from the nation of Egypt. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt over 400 years. Pharaoh felt threatened by the obvious blessing of God that was on them as they were multiplied quickly and gained great wealth. So, he sought their demise. When their bondage became too great, the Bible records that they cried unto God. *“And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob”* (Exodus 2:24). God, in answer to their prayer, called Moses and said, *“I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them”* (Exodus 3:7-8a). When the Israelites were in bondage, they prayed to our God. He sent Moses to them and delivered His people out of bondage.

We serve a God that can do anything! He can deliver us as His people out of bondage. But there are two key elements that must take place.

1. We must see our need of Him.
2. We must call upon Him.

Our God can hear. Our God can answer. Our God can deliver you from bondage and make you SHINE as a light. But first, you must call on Him. I encourage you to call on Him and SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 45 – Lesson 2



Our God Can Protect His People in the Wilderness

Scripture reading Acts 13:18

“And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.”

In this passage, the Apostle Paul recounts how God worked with His people. He says that for forty years, *“suffered he their manners in the wilderness”* (Acts 13:18). What does He mean by that? You remember the story. The children of Israel were brought out of Egypt and began to murmur and complain about their trying situation. Instead of trusting God and calling on God, they began to lust after the pleasant things that they left behind in Egypt. They said that God was going to allow them to die. When it was time to claim God’s victory and enter into the Promise Land, they instead allowed fear to overwhelm them and refused to go in and conquer the giants that God had promised them victory over. Because of their and lack of faith, God allowed them to die in the wilderness over the next forty years. God then allowed their children who were not so hardened in unbelief to inherit the promises that were given to them.

While in the wilderness, God did not forsake them. Moses recorded, *“And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the Lord thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place”* (Deuteronomy 1:31). God put up with their bad manners in the wilderness and lovingly cared for and protected them as a Father to His child.

When God’s children choose to disobey Him, they find often themselves in difficult situations. Yet, God does not forsake His children. He protects and provides for His children even when we walk in disobedience. If God has laid a challenge before your life, don’t run from it. He can protect you in the wilderness you make for yourself. However, He would rather usher you into victory over the giants. Trust God. Believe Him by faith. Ask Him for protection in the wilderness you find yourself in, and ask Him to lead you by faith into victory, and your life will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 45 – Lesson 3



Our God Can Destroy Our Enemies

Scripture reading Acts 13:19

“And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.”

What an amazing statement! A group of 2 million people left the land of Egypt and were providentially protected by God as He led them through the Red Sea. Because of their disobedience, He allowed them to wander for forty years in the wilderness until it was time for their children to enter the Promise Land. When the children entered into the Promised Land, the giants were still there. The difficulties were still there but this group decided to believe God. They walked into a land that was filled with seven different nations. Moses records, *“When the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou”* (Deuteronomy 7:1). Note that these nations were great, mighty, and stronger than the Israelites, but the Israelites believed their God this time. This time, they obeyed the Word of God. This time, they followed their spiritual leader and because of that, God led them through the land of Canaan victoriously. In a period of ten years, they conquered the entire land.

We are representatives of the kingdom of God. We should not ask for the destruction of our enemies, but we should pray for their salvation. God has been gracious to us. We need to be gracious to others. On the cross, Jesus cried to God the Father, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23:34). You and I should be praying daily for those who oppose Christianity, the truth, and do not understand the truth of the Gospel. We should pray that God would save their souls and put His fear in their heart, not for their demise but for their salvation. We should always be ready to give an answer to every man for the hope that is in us. Our God can destroy our enemies and our God can save our enemies. Let us follow the admonition of the Lord Jesus Christ to pray for our enemies and ask God to save them. Be willing to share Christ with others at every opportunity. When you determine that God can take care of your enemies and share His truth, than you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 45 – Lesson 4



Our God Can Set Up Governments as He Sees Fit

Scripture reading Acts 13:20-22

“And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”

These few verses record hundreds of years of Jewish history. The point that Paul is making here is that God was in control throughout all of those years. He is the one that put judges like Jephtha, or Samson, or Gideon (who with three hundred men conquered the armies of the Midianites) in authority. He is the one that made Samuel the last judge. When the children of Israel dishonored their God and complained that they did not have a king, He is the one that established the first king. He gave them what they wanted and demanded, and they found out later that their king was not such a great prize. Saul took their children and drafted them into his army. They lost many freedoms under Saul and were heavily taxed. Saul was disobedient to God, so He called another king, David. Yet, when he was anointed king, he was not allowed to rule because of the rebellion of the leadership in Israel. Eventually, God protected His anointed king and placed him in a position of power. God blessed David because David was a man after His own heart who wanted the will of God. Our God sets up kings and brings down kings.

Our God is in charge of government. Romans 13:1 says, *“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”* We have just gone through an election. We have a responsibility to do all we can. We should pray like it all depends on God. We should work and do all that God wants us to do, but remember that it is God that puts people in power and it is God that takes people out. The powers that be **are ordained** of God. Nothing in this world happens by accident. Our God is in control of governments. Pray for God’s will, seek His direction, believe He is in control, and you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 45 – Lesson 5



Our God Fulfills His Promises

Scripture reading Acts 13:23-29

“Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:...”

The Old Testament is filled with the promises of a Messiah, specifically of a Messiah that would come from the seed of David. *“I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah. And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints”* (Psalm 89:3-5). The Saviour was promised and the Lord Jesus was sent in fulfillment of that promise. On Christmas we celebrate the birth of that Saviour, but that wasn't the end. Jesus lived for thirty-three years and then He was rejected, abused, and placed on a cross where He suffered the most agonizing death that anyone could ever imagine. They killed the Lord Jesus, not knowing all the time they were doing exactly what God the Father had planned. Jesus suffered the equivalent of hell by dying on the cross. When He did that, He paid for your sin and mine. What they intended for evil, God intended for our salvation.

Our God fulfills promises and can even use the wicked to fulfill His purpose. In John 14 before He went to the cross to die, Jesus made a promise to His disciples, *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”* (John 14:1-3). Just as God fulfilled the promise of His birth, life, and death, He will fulfill the promise of His second coming. He is in control. He is preparing the world for the time when the Anti-Christ will reign for seven years. Then He will come back and take full control of this planet, and rule and reign for one thousand years from Jerusalem. Our promise is He knows how to deliver us out of tribulation. The rapture is next! Trust in God because our God is a God who fulfills His promises. Believe that and you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 45 – Lesson 6



Our God Can Raise the Dead

Scripture reading Acts 13:30-37

“But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.”

No religion in the world has what Bible believing Christians have. We have a God who keeps His promises. He kept his promise by becoming a man, living for thirty-three and half years, suffering an agonizing death, and then rising from the dead. Our God is able to raise the dead. God the Father is able to raise God the Son and God will raise us. There is no defeat for the believer. There is only victory. No matter what the world does our message will go forward. It has for the last two thousand years and it will continue to do so. The heathen hates the message of God. In Psalm the question is asked *“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord [Jehovah], and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us”* (Psalm 2:1-3). Our God is not limited by human resources. The world rejects the truth, but our God is in heaven and He laughs.

We need to remember that no matter what is taking place in this world, we serve a God that is in control. Our God can bring people out of bondage. Our God can protect His people in the wilderness. Our God can destroy our enemies. Our God can set up governments as He wills. Our God is a God who fulfills His promises even through the wicked. Our God can raise the dead.

We need to remember that our God moves when we pray. We get saved through prayer. *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10:13). We get cleansed when we pray. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). We get healing for our land when we pray. *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”* (1 Chronicles 7:14). No matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, we must remember that our God will only move when we pray. Are you praying? When you learn to pray, you will SHINE.