God, Grit, and Good Theology:

How to Survive When You're the Nail

"The Life of Paul" episode 9

Acts 14:19-23

"The murmurs swelled. With that terrifying suddenness of oriental mobs, the mood changed from worship to fury. A youth picked up a stone, took aim, and with a vicious flick caught Paul full face. In a moment, before Barnabas or his friends could protect him, he was under a shower of stones, on his jaw, the pit of his stomach, his groin, his chest, his temple. He fell stark and stiff, blood streaming from nose and eyes. The crowd dragged the body out of the city and melted quickly away before the Roman guards at the gate could identify individual murderers." John Pollock, *The Apostle*

Some days you're the hammer; others, you're the nail. And it's amazing how often the "nail days" immediately follow the "hammer days." Monday you're on top of things; Tuesday, all of a sudden everything and everyone's on top of you.

So how does a follower of Christ respond? Or even survive?

Paul says "Imitate me; do what I did in my first missionary journey.

Grip three G's, and they'll get you through it."

1. God. *"Rescue me!"* 14: 20 2 Timothy 3:11

2. Grit. *"I'll press on!"* 14:20-21

The Q isn't who is going to ____ me; it's who is going to _____ me.

When the fight is about ____, fight like a tiger. 13:8-12,44-48 14:2-3
when the fight is about ____, slip away. 13:50-51 14:5-7

3. Good theology. *"The Fantastic 4 work for me!"*

(1) People are f_____. 13:41,46 14:15

(2) God's in c_____. 14:23 2 Cor. 1:8-10

(3) Suffering is c_____. 14:22 2 Timothy 3:12

(4) God'll work it for g_____. 14:21-22 Romans 8:28