

Sermon Discussion Guide:

# The Hard Road to Heaven

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 14:19–23**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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## OVERVIEW

The Christian life is hard, and we will experience pain, but we can persevere because we have purpose to orient us, power to enable us, and peace because God is with us. **The Christian life is one of pain, purpose, power, and peace.**

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## CORROBORATING TEXTS

Matthew 7:13–14, Romans 8:18, Acts 1:8, John 14:25, John 16:33, 1 John 5:4–5, Job 1:21

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Joe described Paul as a ‘glutton for grace’ when he returned to hostile cities. Yet, Paul sometimes fled hostilities. How do we know when to stand up to persecution, and when to run away?
2. How has seeing purpose—either as personal calling or in all things—helped you to persevere when you felt like quitting?
3. In our weakness, God’s power shines. Is there a time when you have clearly seen God’s power demonstrated despite human weakness?
4. Joe described peace not as the absence of pain, but as the presence of God. God is with us, both because he is omnipresent and by the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, yet sometimes He feels distant. Practically speaking, how do we increase our awareness of the presence of God in our lives?