



ACTS





The background of the slide is a faded aerial photograph of a city street grid. A semi-transparent teal layer is overlaid on the entire image. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the frame. The word "CONTEXT" is centered in the middle of the slide in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

CONTEXT



Paul & Barnabas receive great Jewish opposition to the Gospel

Paul & Barnabas flee to avoid being killed

Paul & Barnabas mistaken for gods Paul stoned

The Church at Antioch sends Paul & Barnabas on a missionary journey

Proconsul Sergius Paulus converted

Jerusalem Conference c. 49-50 AD

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts 13 & 14

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches" - Rev. 2-3
- ← Paul's Route →

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The background of the image is a faded, light-colored aerial photograph of a city street grid. A semi-transparent teal overlay covers the entire image. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges. Centered in the middle is the text "Hardship is necessary" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Hardship is necessary

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. The word "Thlipsis" is centered in the middle of the slide in a white, bold, serif font.

Thlipsis

But the Lord said to him, “Go! For this man is My chosen instrument to take My name to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name!”

Acts 9:15-16

Then they will hand you over for persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of My name. Then many will take offense, betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered.

Matthew 24:9-13

Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

John 15:20

But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from them all. In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:10-12

**We must learn to reframe thlipsis as
necessary and normal instead of
occasional and optional**

American Christianity: “through much prosperity, safety, and cultural progress you will enter the kingdom.”

Western culture has become so chronically anxious that our society has gone into an emotional regression...The anxiety is so deep within the emotional processes of our nation that it is almost as though a neurosis has become nationalized...Societal regression is about the perversion of progress....At the same time that a society is 'pro-gressing' technologically it can be 're-gressing' emotionally.

Edwin Friedman

The background is a semi-transparent teal overlay on a detailed aerial map of a city. The map shows a grid of streets, buildings, and green spaces. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom of the image, framing the central text.

Safetyism

“Safetyism” refers to a culture or belief system in which safety has become a sacred value, which means that people become unwilling to make trade-offs demanded by other practical and moral concerns. “Safety” trumps everything else, no matter how unlikely or trivial the potential danger...Safetyism is the cult of safety—an obsession with eliminating threats (both real and imagined) to the point at which people become unwilling to make reasonable trade-offs demanded by other practical and moral concerns. Safetyism deprives young people of the experiences that their antifragile minds need, thereby making them more fragile, anxious, and prone to seeing themselves as victims.

Jonathan Haidt

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Jonathan Haidt

The background of the image is a faded, light-colored aerial map of a city, showing street grids and building footprints. A semi-transparent teal overlay covers the entire map. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. Centered in the middle of the teal area is the text "Hardship is a crucible" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Hardship is a crucible

**We have to make our way through
hardship without being hardened by it**

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Post-Traumatic Growth

The background of the image is a faded, light teal aerial photograph of a city street grid. Two solid white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the frame. Centered in the middle of the image is the word "Antifragile" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Antifragile



The background of the slide is a faded aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. The text is centered and rendered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**Resilience:
Persistence in the face of resistance**

Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:2-4

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned near the top and bottom edges of the image. Centered in the middle of the teal area is the text "Failure of Nerve & Heart" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Failure of Nerve & Heart

Failure of nerve is caving to the pressure of the anxiety of the group to return to the status quo. It is a loss of courage to further the mission...Failure of heart is the emotional cutoff that occurs when the leader's discouragement leads them to psychologically abandon their people and the charge they have been given.

Tod Bolsinger

Failure of Nerve

- John Mark
- Peter
- Aaron
- Elijah

Failure of Heart

- Judas
- Demas
- Moses

The background of the slide is a semi-transparent teal color overlaid on a faint, light-colored aerial map of a city. The map shows a grid of streets and some green spaces. The text is centered horizontally and vertically on the slide.

How do we cultivate resilience?

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. Two horizontal white lines are positioned above and below the central text.

Identity & Calling Grounded in God



Differentiation

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will...For we don't want you to be unaware, brothers, of our affliction that took place in Asia: we were completely overwhelmed—beyond our strength—so that we even despaired of life. Indeed, we personally had a death sentence within ourselves, so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.

2 Corinthians 1:1, 8-9

At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.

2 Timothy 4:16-17

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Filled with the Holy Spirit

And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:3-5

For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power in the inner man through His Spirit, and that the Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know the Messiah's love that surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

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Held in Authentic Relationships

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Comfort & Challenge

He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so through Christ our comfort also overflows. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is experienced in your endurance of the same sufferings that we suffer.

2 Corinthians 1:4-5

I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

John 16:33