SUPERNATURAL: PROTECTION

Pastor John Tiernan

April 24, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. As you think about Sunday’s sermon, what one thing do you particularly remember?
2. John shared a lot of history of Paul’s life and missionary journeys. How would you describe Paul? What do you think shaped his life?
3. **Read Acts 13:2-3 and Acts 14:19-22**. Johnsaid Paul’s first lesson for us is: **Know your PURPOSE.** What was Paul’s purpose? John reminded us, “When you know your purpose, you’ll overcome hardship to see it accomplished.” Share about a time when you were willing to sacrifice for a purpose.
4. **Read Acts 19:9-11**. The second lesson from Paul’s life is: **Trust Your PROTECTOR**.

 In these verses what reasons did God give Paul not to be afraid? What promises does God give us? John asked us to stop and thank God for ways He has protected us. Share some of those ways now.

1. **Read Romans 8:18, 28, 31-32, 35-39.** Paul’s third lesson for us is: **Focus on your**

**PRIZE—not your pain.** What is the prize that was Paul’s focus? What could have happened if Paul decided to settle for comfortable and complacent instead? What prize is *your* focus?

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 and 16-8 and 5:7**. The last lesson from Paul’s life is: **Walk by FAITH—not fear.**  Where are you letting fear overpower your faith? How do we work with God to build fearless faith?
2. **Read 2 Timothy 4:5-8 and 17-18**. What was the result of Paul’s suffering? When we face hard times in life, what are some practical ways to help us remember God’s goodness?
3. **Application:** John said, “Don’t pray for a life free from suffering. Pray for a life full of purpose!” What is your God-given purpose? Pray throughout the week and ask God to clarify your purpose.
4. **Challenge:** What next step in your life are you not taking because of fear? Make a plan to take one step of faith this week and share your plan with your group.

**Prayer Thought**: Spend some time praying through these lessons for others- specifically, believers around the world facing persecution. A worker who recently returned from Iraq wrote, “I have just been with our persecuted Christian family members. They are suffering for Christ and serving Him faithfully in the midst of extreme peril and great need. I told them you will be praying for them, and I challenge you now… in fact, I plead with you…Make it true!” (from [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com); Also see [www.i-am-n.com](http://www.i-am-n.com))

**Verse to Remember:** “*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”***2 Timothy 1:7**