



HARD KNOCKS

AND THE PATHWAY
TO HOPE

Acts 13:1-5

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”** 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. 4 The two of them, **sent on their way by the Holy Spirit,** went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

Acts 13:6-9

They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, 7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. 8 **But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.** Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said...

Acts 13:10-13

10 “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? 11 Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord. 13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, **where John left them to return to Jerusalem.**



Matthew 4:1

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Deuteronomy 8:2-4

Remember that these forty years the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness, **so that** He might humble you and test you **in order to know what was in your heart**, whether or not you would keep His commandments. He humbled you, and in your hunger He gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your fathers had known, **so that** **you might understand that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** 4 Your clothing did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years....

Deuteronomy 8:15-16

He led you through the vast and terrifying wilderness with its venomous snakes and scorpions, a thirsty and waterless land. He brought you water from the rock of flint. 16 He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers had not known, in order to humble you and test you, so that in the end **He might cause you to prosper.**

The Hard Knocks of Following God

- Uncomfortable Learning



Genesis 12:1-2

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and **go to the land that I will show you.** I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others

The Hard Knocks of Following God

- Uncomfortable Learning
- Needs Increasing





Luke 9:2-3

He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. “Take nothing for the journey,” He told them, “no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no second tunic.

The Hard Knocks of Following God

- Uncomfortable Learning
- Needs Increasing
- People Leaving





Acts 13:13

From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, **where John left them to return to Jerusalem.**

The Hard Knocks of Following God

- Uncomfortable Learning
- Needs Increasing
- People Leaving
- Spiritual Fighting





Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil.**

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

Be careful not to forget the LORD your God by failing to keep His commandments and ordinances and statutes, which I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses in which to dwell, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all that you have is multiplied, **then your heart will become proud, and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Remember that these forty years the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness, **so that** He might humble you and test you **in order to know what was in your heart**, whether or not you would keep His commandments. He humbled you, and in your hunger He gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your fathers had known, **so that you might understand that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**



The Pathway to Hope:

**It's on the desert islands that the
power of God is most at work**

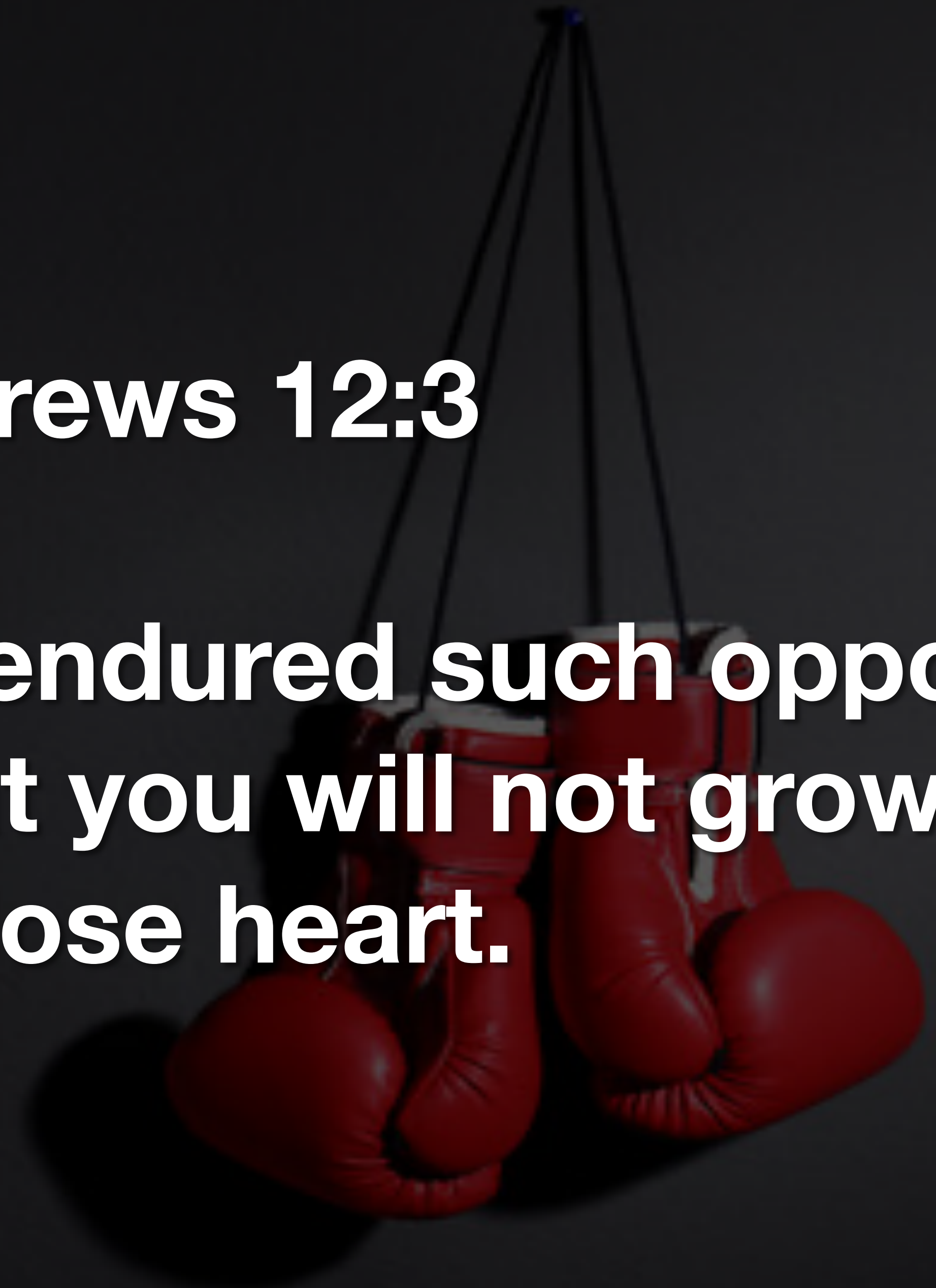


Hebrews 2:18

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 12:3

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.





The Pathway to Hope:

**It's on the desert islands that the
power of God is most at work**