



**STOCK**



“In all those very different contexts, one characteristic emerged as a significant predictor of success. And it wasn’t social intelligence. It wasn’t good looks, physical health, and it wasn’t IQ. It was grit. Grit is **passion** and **perseverance** for very **long-term goals**. Grit is having stamina. Grit is sticking with your future, day-in, day-out. Not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years. And working really hard to make that future a reality. **Grit is living life like it’s a marathon, not a sprint.**” **Angela Duckworth**

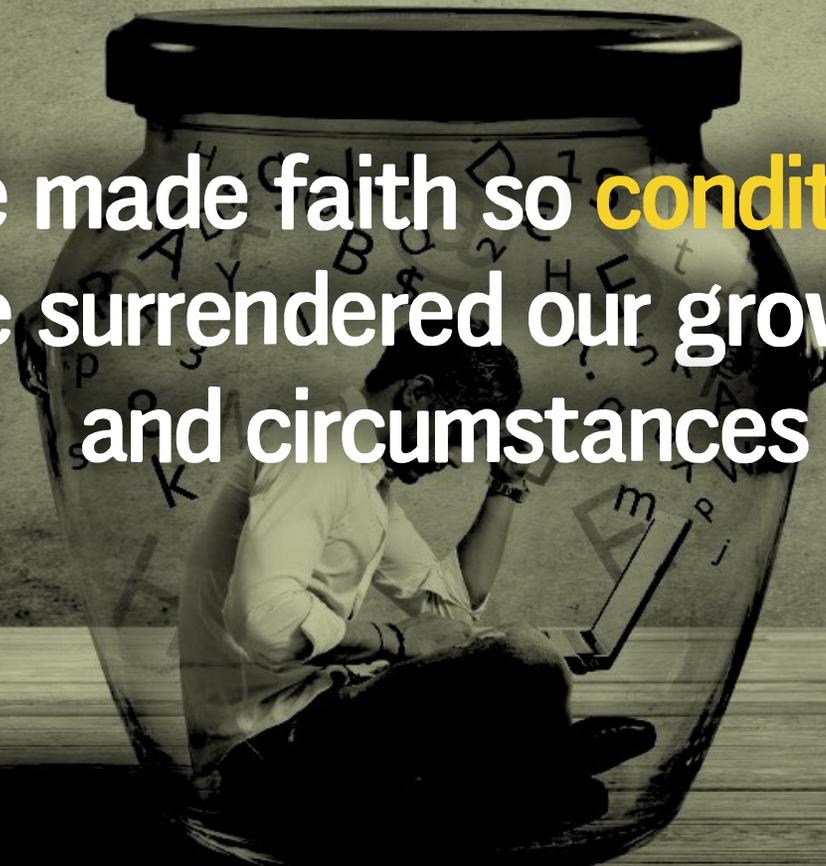


**“Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare.”**



Being stuck is finding ourselves  
“unmoved” in our faith journey.

We have made faith so **conditional** that  
we have surrendered our growth to life  
and circumstances

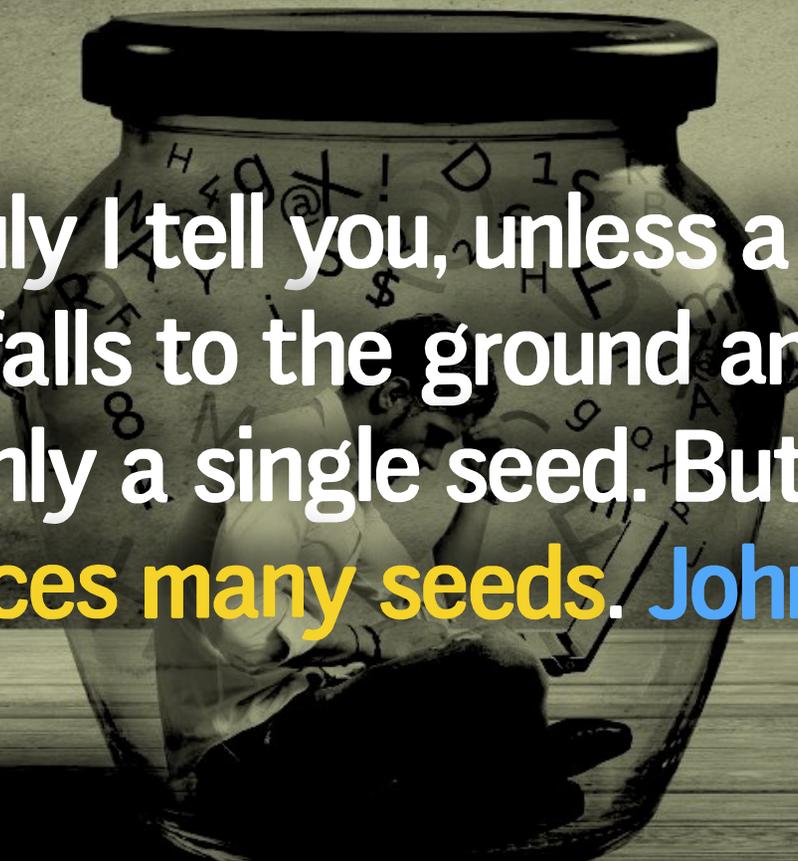




# Why Stuck is So Dangerous

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and **produce a crop (grow)**—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.” **Mark 4:20**

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it **produces many seeds.** **John 12:24**

A glass jar with a black lid, containing a small figure of a person, symbolizing the concept of being 'stuck' or 'dead' in a metaphorical sense.

# Why Stuck is So Dangerous

‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. **Cut it down!** Why should it use up the soil?’ **Luke 13:7**

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and **every tree** that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. **Matthew 3:10**

If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is **thrown away** and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

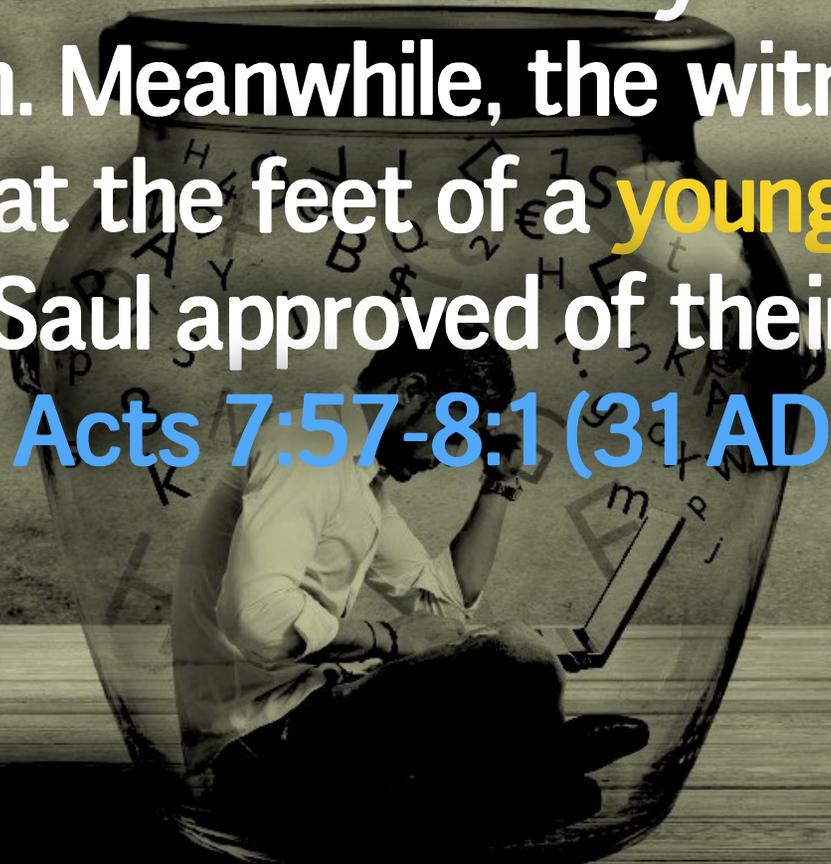
**John 15:6**



# Paul, the Stuck Apostle

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a **young man named Saul**. And Saul approved of their killing him.

**Acts 7:57-8:1 (31 AD)**



# Paul, the Stuck Apostle

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” **Acts 9:5-6 (34 AD)**

After many days had gone by, there was a **conspiracy** among the Jews to kill him, **vs 23**

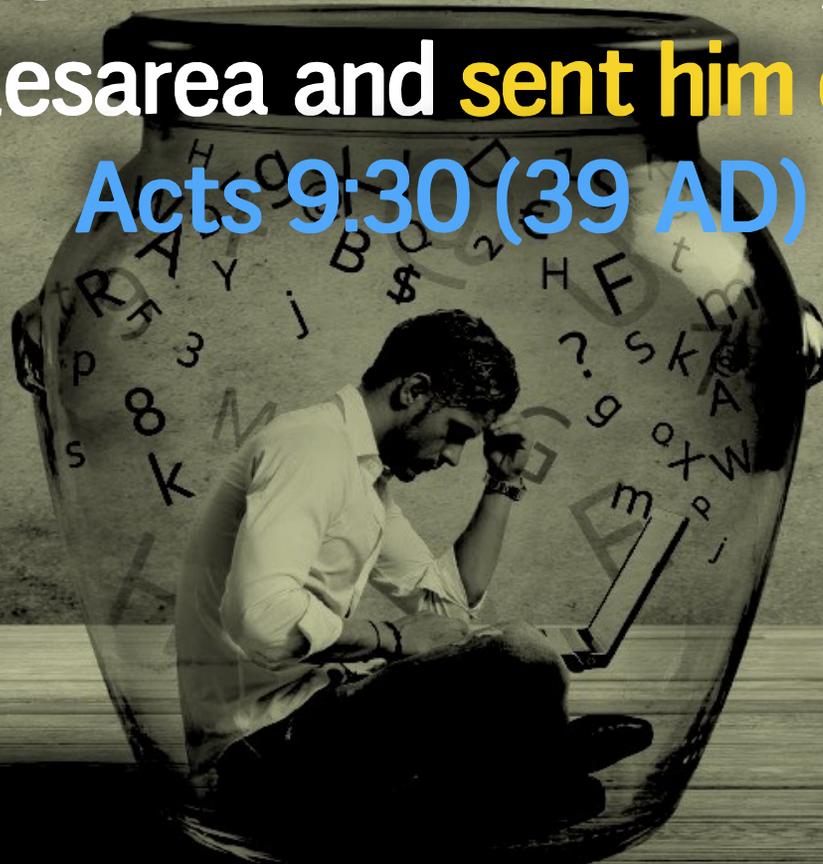
When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were **all afraid of him**, not believing that he really was a disciple. **vs 26**

He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but **they tried to kill him.** **vs 29**

# Paul, the Stuck Apostle

When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and **sent him off to Tarsus.**

**Acts 9:30 (39 AD)**



# Paul, the Stuck Apostle

Stoning of Stephen 31 AD

Paul's Conversion 34 AD

**Stuck**

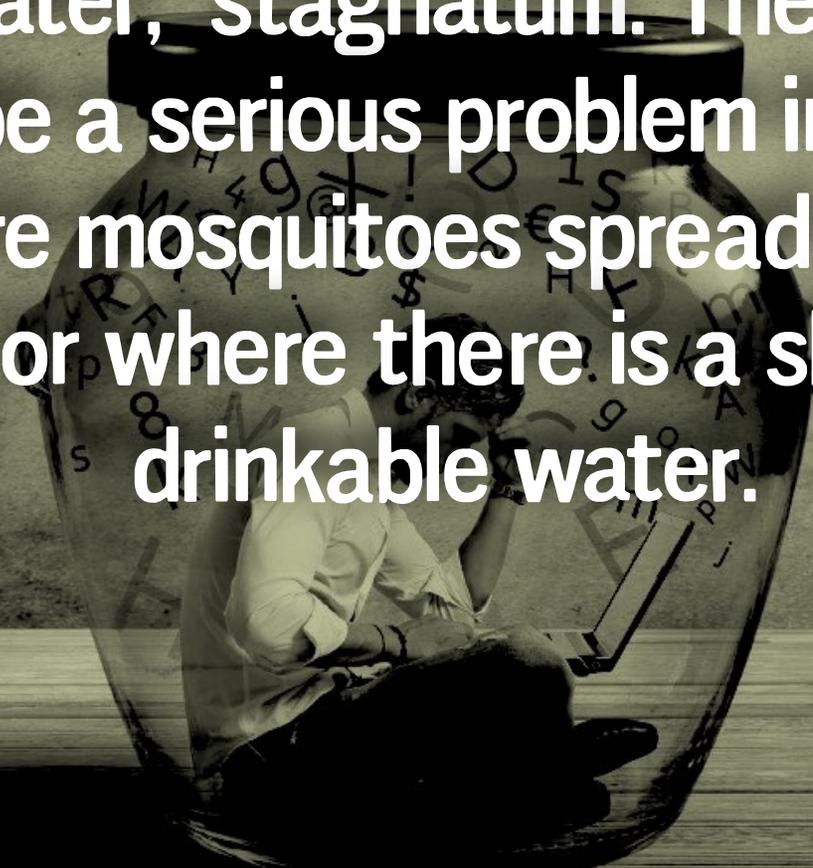
Paul sent to Tarsus 39 AD



# The Stuck of Stagnation

a state of inactivity, stale

The root of stagnation is the Latin word for "standing water," stagnatum. The stagnation of water can be a serious problem in parts of the world where mosquitoes spread diseases like malaria, or where there is a shortage of drinkable water.



# The Stuck of Stagnation

So, because you are **lukewarm (tepid, stale)**—neither hot nor cold—I am about to **spit (vomit)** you out of my mouth. **Revelation 3:16**

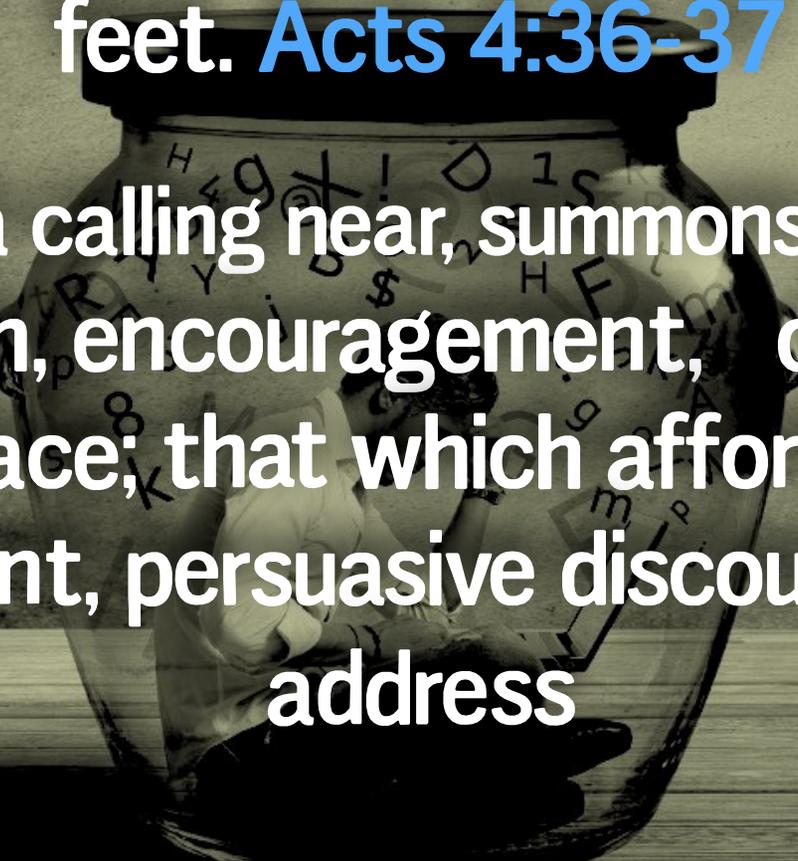
The Greek word here is emeo, which means “to vomit.” There is another word, ptuo that means “to spit” that John could have used if that is what he meant.

Warm water doesn't make you vomit, stagnant water does

# The Cure for Stagnation

**Joseph**, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of **encouragement**”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet. **Acts 4:36-37**

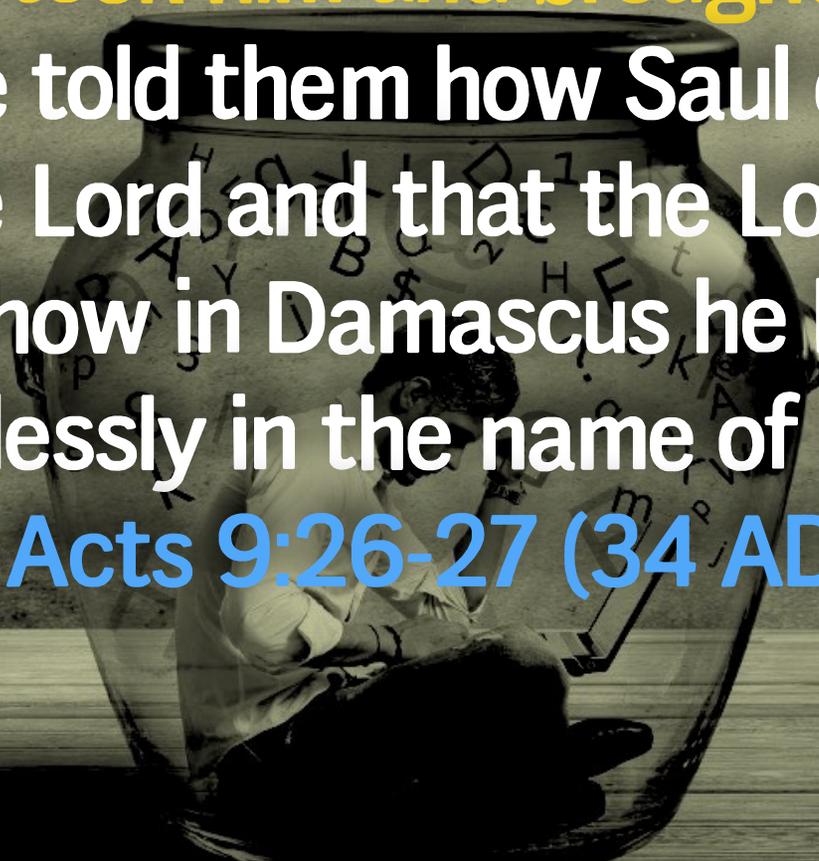
**Paraklesis**: a calling near, summons, exhortation, admonition, encouragement, consolation, comfort, solace; that which affords comfort or refreshment, persuasive discourse, stirring address

A glass jar with a black lid is shown, filled with crumpled white paper and several coins. The jar is placed on a wooden surface. The background is a dark, textured wall. The text is overlaid on the image.

# The Cure for Stagnation

When he (Saul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. **But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.** He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 9:26-27 (34 AD)**



# The Cure for Stagnation

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for **a whole year** Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. **Acts 11:25-26 (42-43 AD)**

Paul sent to Tarsus 39 AD

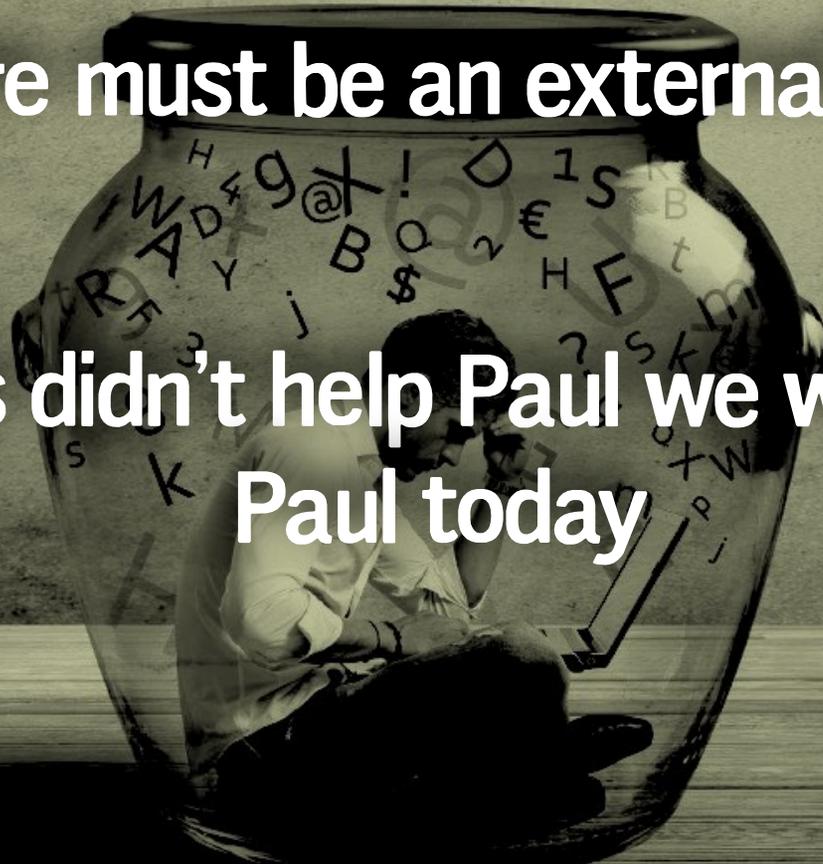
Barnabas looks for Paul 43 AD

Barnabas mentors Paul 44 AD

**Stagnant water is the problem of immobility  
of being surrounded by the same**

**The cure must be an external infusion**

**If Barnabas didn't help Paul we wouldn't have  
Paul today**



**Carry each other's burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. **Galatians 6:2**

We who are strong ought to **bear with the failings of the weak** and not to please ourselves. **Romans 15:1**

Rather, in humility **value others above yourselves**, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. **Philippians 2:3-4**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**:  
**2 Corinthians 5:18**

Therefore encourage one another and **build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:11**