**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

I think I am correct in assuming most of us like to have favorable recognition. If that were not the case, there would be no “participation trophies.” We like the kind things people say about us. We enjoy hearing others brag on us. But wrapped up in all that is a danger. *Will we accept praise and glory that rightfully belongs to another?*

If you are an officer and you have some hard-working, quality sailors under you, your superiors may think you are really doing an exceptional job, and it will be reflected in your fitness reports. You may receive high praise for the work others do. The same can happen in retail, industry, or (gasp!) ministry. Instead of accepting praise that belongs to others, deflect it to those who deserve it!

At Lystra, Paul and Barnabas found themselves the object of, not only amazement, but of worship! The priest of a pagan religion was going to offer animal sacrifices to them! How did they react? They tore their cloths as a sign of spiritual consternation and grief! They cried out, *“we are men of like passions…”* And they refused to accept praise that belonged to another. In this case, it belonged to God!

If we are ever tempted to accept praise as if we are “hot stuff,” I have two words for us: “*Remember Agrippa*!” He was hot…until he wasn’t!

*Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction,*

*And a haughty spirit before a fall.*