

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 18:1-17

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 204

TITLE:

"It's Always Too Soon To Quit"

BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD

THEME:

Acts 1:8

*"But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **"you shall be witnesses to Me"** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Mark Twain Said,

**That it was "by perseverance
that the snail made it to the Ark in Time**

How Many Times have we heard the words...

If I had Only stuck with it

Music Lessons, Education, A Pursuit

If I had Only stuck with it

It's Always Too Soon To Quit

as for us who are Christians... it is never the time to quit because our commander in chief hasn't given us any such option.

It's The Human Side of Us that Wars against the Spiritual Side

The Emotional Side waging against Logical Side

Paul was having such a time!!!

Two young boys carrying a snow shovel and a bag of dollar bills spotted a man shoveling his own driveway that was covered in snow - so being the businessmen they were, they both sat down and offered to remove the snow for just \$2... the man said "can't you see that I'm going to remove it myself" - **yes sir, said the boys... and that's exactly how we made all this money today, from people who started but couldn't finish.**

Last Time:

The Reaction of the World

The Reaction of all of You This Morning?

Some Mocked ~ Some Delayed ~ Some Believed

What About Corinth

Population: 200,000

Location:

it was the major trade route of the ancient world

Culture:

due to its influx of travelers and merchants, money and vice was abundant and the two tempted all who came there.

It was only the Las Vegas of the _____ region

it was known for its numerous opportunities to fulfill the desires of the flesh

"The Little Girls Bodie Quote Here"

How God Counters Discouragement

A.) God Gives Faithful Helpers

vv. 1-5

#1 *God's Maneuvering in Our Lives*

The Government was descending upon the people and so was organized religion - and Christian and Paul was there targets.

This Happened in 49 AD. because of the riotous acts of the Jewish people over a doctrine called "Christos" Christianity

Found

Aquila who's name means;

Priscilla. her name means;

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, Romans 16:4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. (NKJ) Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, (NKJ)

How God Counters Discouragement

#2 *God Customizes Our Co-Laborers*

Note This;

Integrity within the Ministry: (the integrity crisis)

Paul was not willing to allow the preaching of the gospel to be like the con-artist and religious pretenders there in Corinth

I hope this pastor recognizes what the Lord is doing here with all the many helpers and servants

"they were to have a trade" was the Rabbis teaching

Paul was working during the week, sharing Christ in the evens and on the weekends

Paul's Faithful Friends:

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Colossians 1:2

To the saints (all believer's) and faithful brethren (all believers serving Christ) in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you

They Came to his Aid:

II Corinthians 11:9 Paul was Supported

financially, Paul was relieved from his full-time secular job to devote his time to preaching & teaching

1 Thessalonians 3:8

For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

(If you guys continue growing - then it's worth the hassle)

Paul was the greatest of Christian leaders the world has ever known...
Because God had raised up an army of Faithful friends and supporters

Last Month I stood at the Graveside of Ralph Waldo Emerson
who said... God did not intended all of us to be rich or powerful in this world, but He
did intend for us to be friends

Reasoned GRK 1256 **dialegomai** (dee-al-eg'-om-ahee)
to **argue** thoroughly, (ENG. to **dialogue**) by questions and answers
to dispute

Persuaded GRK 3982 **peitho** (pi'-tho)
to convince by giving arguments, to come to obey, to win over the mind

To bring to a point of Decision

Paul wouldn't Quit

B.) Opposition Before Opportunities vv. 6-8

How God Counters Discouragement

#1 *We See is... Opposition*

Opposition to the Christian is Often a sign of Approval from God

1 Corinthians 16:9

For (because) a great and effective door has opened to me, there are many adversaries!

1 Corinthians 2:3

I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

Charles Spurgeon: *"I've never seen the Devil kick a dead horse"*

Christopher Columbus *wrote in the ships Log Book "Today, We are Sailing On" -
Christianity reached the New World First*

- IT'S THE WARFARE THAT SHOWS US HOW SWEET THE VICTORY CAN BE.
- IT'S THE ROUGH ROAD THAT CAUSES US TO APPRECIATE THE PAVED HIGHWAY

Psalm 91:11

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

(Angles are for Helping us according to Matthew & Hebrews)

The Peanuts Characters - *Charlie Brown's team has lost every game this season... Lucy, trying to comfort Charlie says "Remember Charlie Brown, We learn more from our Defeats than we do from our victories" ... Charlie responds by saying "then I'm the smartest kid in the whole world"*

The Jewish Pronouncement of Judgment

"I wash my hands of the Affair" - "It's on his own head"

Genesis 6:3

God said, "My Spirit will not contend (put up with, to tolerate) man forever, for he is mortal..."

Judgment is *Suspended* over Their Heads

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.

Now GRK 3568 (noon)

a set, particle moment of time, the present time; "the immediate now"

It's High Noon, time

Romans 13:11

...do this, understand the present time. That the high time or hour has come for you **to wake up from your slumber,**

How God Counters Discouragement

#2 *Causing Opportunities to Arise*

The Lay-People (the non-professional) baptized the converts

It wasn't Paul's Calling Others did it - Lay Ministers

**A Healthy, Loving, Serving Church
of Christian Believers**

Jesus is The Only Shepherd of the Sheep
Pastors are Sheep Dogs to help Him

#3 *We See is... Words of Assurance* v.9-10

Between these Verse, There must have been a Dangerous Time for Paul.

"Do Not Be Afraid, But Speak..."

Afraid *GRK 5399 phobeo (fob-eh'-o)*

The Root Word is phobos (fob'-os) from a primary phebomai (to be put in terror of, or to frighten, greatly alarmed)

On The Heals of Victory...
Paul is laid low by FEAR

What was Paul Thinking ?

(whatever it was, it led to with Paul was feeling)

**He was thinking "Failure",
which leads to Doubt, which leads to FEAR**

And FEAR will sterilize the Christian

do not be afraid" he was afraid

When God Opens Doors... Satan does his best to close them
But there are times when we close the doors on ourselves because of discouragement -
we often quit too soon"

The Effects of Fear Upon You As a Christian

fear robs us of all confidence
fear causes us to not speak out
fear produces a war on the inside / outside

"I Think I'm Going to Quit"

passion "I AM WITH YOU" passion

THIS WEEK;

- *A Husband and Father in Our Church Died*
- *A man discouraged, lashed out with words and hurt someone.*
- *A mother this week called and said... "I like choke Jr."*
- *A business suffered bankruptcy*
- *A phone call from the east coast, Corporate pressures & politics*

passion "I AM WITH YOU" passion

Paul was concerned about Three Things;

- #1 Where's God,
- #2 being beaten to death
- #3 being an effective evangelist

First; "FOR I AM WITH YOU !!!

Second; "NO ONE WILL ATTACK YOU TO HURT YOU !!!

Third; "FOR I HAVE MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY !!!

Alot of Work needed to be done

**Introduced Here is
"The Doctrine of Predestination"**

The Fishing is going to be great

It brings Great Comfort to Preachers... Because it Guarantees that the Fishing will be good, until the Lord returns for the catch !!!

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone

Romans 8:30

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

The Name "Corinthians" was an absolute disgrace. If you were a Corinthian, it meant you practiced fornication - amous prostitutes lived there - severe drug and liquor addiction

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled (thrown to the wind); you believe in God, believe (be anchored) in Me.

Luke 12:7 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Do not fear** (Stop It) therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (NKJ)

my hair razing experience caused my hair to start to fall out
Our thinning or Balding heads are nothing more than a worry wart!

Luke 12:32 "**Do not fear**, (Stop It) little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (NKJ)

Isaiah 43:1

THUS SAYS THE LORD, who created you, O Jack, and He who formed you, "**Fear not**, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. (NKJ)

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

"perfect love casts out fear"

1 John 4:18

There is **No Fear** in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (NKJ)

That's Why The Lord Says;

Matthew 10:28

"And **do not fear** (Stop It) those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

The Fear of man is to be Afraid

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba in Hebrew, Papa, in Italian, and Daddy in English Father."

Daaaddy

The World Is Picking On Me Again.

Daaaddy

The Devil Keeps Calling Me Names

The Fact that He is my Father causes
the Fear to fade away - He is my defense !!!

A group of boys were talking about who's dad was the toughest and one boy said "My Daddy can beat up your daddy... and the other little boy said "that's nothing, my mommy can beat up my daddy"

C.) Opposition + Opportunity = Encouragement

the result of the Lord's comfort in Paul's life was...

"He stayed there for a Year and Half

He Stayed and He Taught

To Walk By Faith is to see the Potential

A pessimist sees only the problems, An Optimist sees only the potential. But a Realist sees the potential in the Problems

#1 *The Setting is the Bema Seat of Judgment*

#2 *God Uses Opposition to Enlarge the Church*

Sosthenes Was not a Christian at this time

"Ruler of the Synagogue"

Paul took Sosthenes in and ministered to him after his beating

1 Corinthians 1:1

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

But Gallio took no notice of these things

~ Indifferent ~

But What About You, Personally

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, :10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. :11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.