

Empowered By The Spirit: His Promises = Our Confidence

Acts 18:1-17

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The Apostle Paul had been through the wringer. He was tired, beat up, and persecuted for his stance for the Gospel. He was most likely discouraged; but, refused to throw in the towel. In light of his challenges and clear opposition, God issued Paul a reminder of His promises and His presence. It renewed Paul's zealous passion to honor God and speak boldly about the Gospel.

The Context:

- ↪ Paul had been **beaten**. Acts 14:19; 16:22-23
- ↪ Paul was well **traveled**. Acts 18:1
1 Corinthians 2:1-3:
- ↪ Paul was joined by **Aquila** and Priscilla. Acts 18:2
- ↪ Silas and Timothy joined Paul in Corinth. Acts 18:5
- ↪ The Gospel was bearing much **fruit** in Corinth. Acts 18:8

Paul's Vision

- **Fear** not. Acts 18:9

1 John 4:18: "So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

- Keep **Ministering**. Acts 18:9

"I have learned this repeatedly in my own life. When my strength is deleted, when my rhetoric is unpolished by human talent, when I am weary, the Lord has a much better tool for empathetic, sensitive communication. The barriers are down. When I know I can do nothing by myself, **my poverty becomes a channel of his power.**" ~ Lloyd Ogilvie

2 Corinthians 12:9: "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

- The **Promise**. Acts 18:10

By now you have discovered that all roads do not lead to God, and life is not as simple as you once thought. For those who are at this crossroad, the Bible offers a new direction, one filled with purpose, fulfillment, and acceptance. The steps are simple:

1 Recognize that you're a sinner.

You must admit your spiritual need. "There is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10). We can't make excuses or blame others for our actions. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23).

2 Recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus paid the price for your sin. The apostle Paul said, "...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20).

3 Repent of your sins.

The word "repent" means "to change your direction." The Bible tells us, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19). God commands us to repent. You must be willing to turn away from the things that displease God.

4 Accept Jesus as your Savior.

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). It is essential to come to Jesus just as you are. Don't try to "clean up your life" before you come to God. Instead, receive Him and allow Him to do the "cleansing." Jesus said, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, And the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." (John 6:37).

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