

Stop Being Afraid

Acts 18:1-18a

“After these events Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them, and they worked together, for they were tent-makers by trade. And Paul was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood is on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his entire household; and many of the Corinthians, as they listened to Paul, were believing and being baptized. And the Lord said to Paul by a vision at night, “Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” And he settled there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up together against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man is inciting the people to worship God contrary to the law.” But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of some crime or vicious, unscrupulous act, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are questions about teaching and persons and your own law, see to it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.” And he drove them away from the judgment seat. But they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. And yet Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.” (Acts 18:1–17, NASB 2020)



Our text reveals three reasons why Paul and you and I should not be afraid of anything.

1. The Presence of God

*“And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, **“Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”**”* (Acts 18:9–10)

*“**“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,**”* which translated means, *“**GOD WITH US.**”*” (Matthew 1:23)

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

2. The Promises of God

*“And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, **“Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”**”* (Acts 18:9–10)

Paul had God’s guarantee of His presence and protection. A promise is only as good as the person making the promise. The eternal God and Father promised to be with Paul and protect him from harm so he could fulfill the course God had laid out for him. God is trustworthy and cannot lie, so His promises will always come true. We might not know how He is going to do something He promised, but we know that He will do it for His glory.



“For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” (2 Peter 1:4)

As Christ followers, we live on promises, not explanations.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?” (Romans 8:31)

3. The People of God

“And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.””

“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”” (2 Timothy 2:19)

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love” (Ephesians 1:4)

“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.” (John 4:34)

“I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.” (John 17:4)

“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” (John 19:30)



Paul finished his course and said to Timothy.

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;” (2 Timothy 4:6–7)

David fulfilled His purpose before he died.

“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;” (Acts 13:36)

My Response:

- 1) Draw courage from God’s presence.
- 2) Live on God’s promises.
- 3) Reach God’s people.

May we be able to say to those who do not believe as Paul did to the Jews at Corinth, “Your blood be on your own heads.”

Answers: Presence, Promises, People.

