

April 27, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

The Book of Acts Chapter 18

Team Work Makes the Dream Work

The Original Dream Team.

Today we return to the book of Acts where we left off with Chapter 17 on January 27. We have discovered from our previous messages there are Four (4) Key Elements of the 1st Century that we can learn from and apply as the 21st Century Church.

The Four Key Elements Are

- (1) Continuous Devotion & Worship.
- (2) Common Care & Concern
- (3) Courageous Obedience & Faithfulness.
- (4) Clear Commitment to Balancing Adherence to Biblical Doctrine & Gracious Application of Those Doctrines. (i.e. Truth in Love)

And just as a reminder of our Series Purpose Statement:

We Are Called to Be Powerful Witnesses of God's Good News Story, Motivated by Love, & Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

In the Book of Acts we find a detailed and accurate account of the start and growth of the New Testament Church and begins with the Ascension of Christ @33AD and runs through to about 62-64AD with Paul in Rome in prison but still being a vibrant witness for Christ.

Acts is the story of the birth and growth of the early church. It provides a rich, accurate historical as well as spiritual description of the early believers.

The purposes of the book appear to be (1) to provide an inspired record of selected events in the spread of the gospel and the church, (2) to show how the plans and purposes of God work out through history, and (3) to provide for a defense of the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts reveals the origin, nature, and the function of the Church. Acts was completed before Paul's death.

A simple outline is:

- Chapters 1-12 describes the missionary work of Peter among the Jews.
- Chapters 12-28 shows the missionary expansion of church by Paul to the Gentiles.



Paul and His Missionary DreamTeam of Evangelists, Church Planters and Disciple-Makers uses a variety of techniques and ministry outreaches as they made their way on their Missionary Journeys. A key focus of their ministry was going to the cities and trying to reach the masses of lost people.

We saw this in our January 27 message focused on Chapter 17.



- I. Thessalonica-Resisting The Word (17:1-9)
- II. Berea-Receiving the Word (17:10-15)
- III. Athens- Ridiculing the Word (17:16-34)

Today, we pick up where Paul and His Ministry Team left off. Let's look at their City Outreach found in Chapter 18.

We find the Dream Team (Paul, Silas & Timothy along with some new draftees to the team) leaving the Capital City of Athens and going to the Big City of Corinth. (around 51AD). The new team member include the Original Power Couple Priscilla & Aquilla, and a rookie star Apollos.

There are a lot of lessons we can learn from this chapter but let's focus on **three key ideas:**

- 1. The Need for Faithful Team Ministry To Reach The Lost**
- 2. The Need For Boldness in Witnessing**
- 3. The Need for Godly Discipleship & Direction**

1. The Need for Faithful Team Ministry To Reach The Lost

Acts 18:1-8...¹*After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth,*² *where he found a Jewish man named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul came to them,*³ *and being of the same occupation, stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.*⁴ *He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks.*

⁵ *When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with preaching the message and solemnly testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.*

⁶ *But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook his robe and told them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."*⁷ *So he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.*⁸ *Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed the Lord, along with his whole household. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.*

Paul is one of the most famous and well-known Christian of all time. Paul, however, is not a Lone Ranger Christian. He was always ministering, instructing, correcting & discipling with fellow believers in a team format and he focuses on every day, marketplace environments.

It is easy to miss the fact that Paul was a working man. Even though he was highly educated by one of the leading Rabbi's of his day, he was a hardworking tentmaker. He combined his Call to Ministry with his Call to Work in the Marketplace. He also worked with others as a Team to reach people in the real world where people work and play.

This passage shows us along with many other bible passages that Work is not a curse it is a ministry platform. A platform where we can use the gifts and talents God has given us and to produce things that help society as well as give us an opportunity to Bring Glory to God and share God's Good News Story. When we work with others and shine God's Light we make a Kingdom impact through our relationships. You may not think you have a very great platform but remember that Paul, and his team members Priscilla & Aquilla were tentmakers, not exactly a Fortune 500 job. Lol.

Questions for Application in Daily Life

- How can I view my daily work as a form of worship and service to God?
- What opportunities can I create to share the gospel within my workplace or community?
- How can I build deeper, more meaningful relationships with others for the purpose of ministry?
- Am I being faithful in the small, everyday tasks God has given me?
- How can I integrate my faith into my work without separating the two?

<https://divinesermons.com/acts-18-sermon-outline/>

2. The Need For Boldness in Witnessing

Acts 18:9-22.. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Paul in a night vision, “Don’t be afraid, but keep on speaking and don’t be silent.” ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city.” ¹¹ And he stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. ¹² While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack against Paul and brought him to the judge’s bench. ¹³ “This man,” they said, “persuades people to worship God contrary to the law!” ¹⁴ As Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of a crime or of moral evil, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you Jews. ¹⁵ But if these are questions about words, names, and your own law, see to it yourselves. I don’t want to be a judge of such things.” ¹⁶ So he drove them from the judge’s bench. ¹⁷ Then they all seized Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the judge’s bench. But none of these things concerned Gallio. ¹⁸ So Paul, having stayed on for many days, said good-bye to the brothers and sailed away to Syria. Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He shaved his head at Cenchreae because he had taken a vow. ¹⁹ When they reached Ephesus he left them there, but he himself entered the synagogue and engaged in discussion with the Jews. ²⁰ And though they asked him to stay for a longer time, he declined, ²¹ but he said good-bye and stated, “I’ll come back to you again, if God wills.” Then he set sail from Ephesus.

²² On landing at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and went down to Antioch. ²³ And after spending some time there, he set out, traveling through one place after another in the Galatian territory and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Luke, the author and compiler of Acts is very detailed in his descriptions. It helps us to feel like we are right there with Paul and the others.

“In Acts 18:9-10, Paul faces significant opposition in Corinth, and fear begins to take hold of him. Yet God, in His grace, speaks directly to Paul, reassuring him that he is not alone and that his efforts will bear fruit. This passage shows how God strengthens and encourages His servants when they are overwhelmed. It teaches us that even in moments of fear, we can trust in God’s presence and His promises to provide for us and give us courage to speak and live in truth no matter the circumstances or consequences”. Even though Paul is fearful, God commands him to keep speaking and not be silent. This shows that, when God calls us, He expects us to continue in our mission, even when it’s difficult. Boldness in the face of opposition is an essential part of the Christian walk. Paul’s persistence is a testimony to the strength God provides. It challenges us to press on in faith, even when we feel discouraged or unsure of the outcome. The courage to keep speaking comes from God’s presence, not from our own strength”. <https://divinesermons.com/acts-18-sermon-outline/>

God Is Sovereign Over Opposition

The Good News Story Of The Gospel Is Unstoppable
God Can Use Opposition For His Glory
God Provides Godly Team Members To Support Us

Questions for Application in Daily Life

1. In what areas of your life are you experiencing fear or opposition? How can God’s promises help you move forward?
2. How do you respond when God calls you to speak up for Him in difficult situations?
3. What does success in God’s mission look like to you? How can you redefine success based on God’s promises?
4. How can you trust in God’s presence during moments of fear or uncertainty?
5. Are there situations where you have been tempted to stay silent? What is God calling you to do instead? <https://divinesermons.com/acts-18-sermon-outline/>

3. The Need for Godly Discipleship & Direction

Acts 18:24-28...²⁴ A Jew named Apollos, a native Alexandrian, an eloquent man who was powerful in the use of the Scriptures, arrived in Ephesus. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught the things about Jesus accurately, although he knew only John’s baptism. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. After Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him home and explained the way of God to him more accurately. ²⁷ When he wanted to cross over to Achaia, the brothers wrote to the disciples urging them to welcome him. After he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace. ²⁸ For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating through the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.

Here we are introduced to another Dream team member, Apollos. Apollos, was a native of Alexandria in Northern Africa. We don't know a great deal about him, but he seems to be a well-educated, well-versed scholar of what we call the Old Testament. At some point he had become a Christian and was bold and courageous in sharing his faith. At this point Priscilla & Aquilla, who had been dispatched to the city of Ephesus, come in contact with Apollos presencing boldly and eloquently, however he had not been disciplined well and only knew about the early days of Jesus up to the time of Jesus's baptism by John the Baptist. So this DreamTeam couple set about to work discipling, training and encouraging Apollos.

Points to Note:

- * Just because you are eloquent, sincere and passionate doesn't mean you have all the answers. Apollos needed to be taught more about the full life and ministry of Jesus. Apollos shows us the need to be passionate but also open to growing and learning.
- * We all need to be continuous, humble learners. There is always more to know.
- * Discipling others is a team effort that requires fellow believers to come alongside others and share with them and guide them into spiritual maturity and to provide fellowship and mutual encouragement.

Questions for Application in Daily Life

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1. How do you respond to correction, especially when it comes from others in the faith?
2. How can you approach teaching others with humility, acknowledging that there is always more to learn?
3. Are you willing to accept the correction of others in your spiritual life? How do you handle areas of misunderstanding?
4. In what ways can you disciple others to help them grow in their knowledge of God's Word?
5. How can you correct someone in a loving and respectful way, like Aquila and Priscilla did?
6. How can you be intentional in discipling others in your church or community?
7. What areas of your life need strengthening through encouragement from others?
8. How can you encourage and support fellow believers in their faith journey?
9. What gifts has God given you, and how can you use them to serve others in discipleship?
10. How can you actively engage in the process of spiritual growth for yourself and others?

Take Away:

God wants you to be on His Good News Story DreamTeam. When we all work together as His Team, we can Reach The Lost and Disciple them to become Powerful Witnesses of God's Good News Story, Motivated by Love, & Empowered by the Holy Spirit.