

IN POWERED DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Obedient Discipleship

Acts 18:1-18a

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Focal Passages

➤ Volunteer readers needed for:

- ✓ Acts 18:1-3
- ✓ Acts 18:4-6
- ✓ 2 Cor. 11:9
- ✓ Acts 18:7-11
- ✓ Acts 18:12-18a

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KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

A motivational poster produced by the British government in 1939 in preparation for World War II.

The poster was intended to raise the morale of the British public, threatened with widely predicted mass air attacks on major cities.

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Acts 1:8

“But you will receive **POWER**
when the Holy Spirit has come on you,
and you will be My witnesses in
Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.”

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THE 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

50-52 AD

CORINTH



- ❖ Provincial capital of Greece, about 50 miles west of Athens.
- ❖ Large, cosmopolitan city with about 750,000 residents.
- ❖ Great commercial center with a world-famous emporium and two seaports.
- ❖ Highly immoral, 1,000+ prostitutes in the temple of Aphrodite.
- ❖ Paul spent 18-months there on his second missionary journey.

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Priscilla & Aquila

Acts 18:1-3

¹After this, he left Athens and went to Corinth, ²where he found a Jew 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, ³and since they were of the same occupation, tentmakers by trade, he stayed with them and worked.

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? Why would Claudius order all Jews to leave Rome?

- Suetonius, a biographer of Roman emperors, said it was due to constant riots among the Jews.
- According to him, the civil disturbances were instigated by Chrestus.

? Does the name Chrestus give you any insight into the possible cause of the disturbances?

- Chrestus is very similar to Christus, the Latin word for Christ.
- This suggests that Christianity had reached Rome.

What did Paul have in common with Priscilla & Aquila?

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Paul the Evangelist

- **What did Paul do every Sabbath in Corinth?**
- **What changed after Silas and Timothy arrived?**
- **What enabled Paul to stop tentmaking when his friends arrived from Macedonia? (2 Cor. 11:9)**

? *What difference would it make if missionaries were not given financial support?*

- **How did Paul react when the Jews opposed him?**

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Witness to the Jews

Acts 18:4-6

⁴ He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to preaching the word and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.

⁶ When they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his clothes and told them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

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WITNESS TO GENTILES

Acts 18:7-11

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 in the Lord, along with his whole household. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

⁹ 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 He stayed there a year and a half, teaching the word of God among them.

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Why did Paul turn to the Gentiles in Corinth?

How should we respond when people reject the Gospel?

What does v9 suggest about how the Jews responded?

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Protected As Promised

Acts 18:12-18a

¹² While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack against Paul and brought him to the tribunal. ¹³ "This man," they said, "is persuading people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

¹⁴ As Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or of a serious crime, 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 refuse to be a judge of such things." ¹⁶ So he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷ And they all seized Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal, but none of these things mattered to Gallio.

¹⁸ After staying for some time, Paul said farewell to the brothers and sisters and sailed away to Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.

Why was Paul brought into court before Gallio?

What crucial decision did Gallio make?

Why did the crowd attack Sosthenes?

How was Gallio's decision an answer to God's promise to Paul?

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

LESSONS LEARNED IN CORINTH

About GOD

- He had people in Corinth waiting to care for Paul.
- He protected Paul from harm, as promised.
- He blessed Paul's obedience and faithfulness by bringing many to saving faith.

From PAUL

- God goes before us and prepares the way.
- God can overcome our weaknesses and calm our fears.
- God blesses our obedience!

From PRISCILLA & AQUILA

- Our willingness to serve is important.
- Our marriage is important.
- Our friendship is important.
- Our help is important.
- Our support and encouragement is important.

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IN POWERED DISCIPLESHIP
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Pure Discipleship
Acts 19:1-41

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