

August 8th & 9th, 2026

“Do not be afraid, 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 in this city who are my people.”*

Acts 18:1-11

Are you ever afraid of sharing your faith? Growth in our faith brings us to a desire for others to know the love and life of Christ, to help others out of being lost and dead in their trespasses and sins. The love of God constrains us as we grow to share Christ with others. In this passage, God speaks directly to Paul. He doesn't have to guess at God's will for him.

The evangelization of Corinth: Acts 18:1-17.

Paul follows Christ to open doors: Acts 18:1-6.

- ♦ God works through people, circumstances, and even common interests or professions.

Acts 18:1-3 “After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.”

- ♦ Paul reasoned and testified in places where there was a welcome. Reception was not guaranteed, but some believed, and setting out led him to the right opportunities.

Acts 18:4-6 “And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, ‘Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.’”

- ♦ Paul pivoted, next door!

Acts 18:7-8 “And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.”

The Lord speaks directly to Paul:

Acts 18:9-10 “And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are My people.’”

Do not be afraid

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

- ♦ Paul’s own record of his frame when he spoke to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

Go on speaking

Ephesians 4:14-16 “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Mark 1:14-15 “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’”

Matthew 5:2-3 “And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ³‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”

Acts 8:35 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus”

Acts 10:34 “So Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,’”

Do not be silent

Luke 19:40 “He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.’”

Esther 4:14 “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

✠ I am with you

Matthew 28:18-19 “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

✠ No one will attack you

1 John 4:4 “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world.”

✠ For I have many in this city who are my people.

Isaiah 43:5 “Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.”