



Lesson 10

Case Study: Struggling with Fear *Acts 18:1-17*

And 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, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God

Summary

In the midst of debilitating fear, God confronts His servant, challenging him to stop being afraid, promising His presence and motivating ongoing strategic ministry.

Problem – The C i r c u m s t a n c e s that Threaten

1 Corinthians 2:3 explains why this word of counsel from Christ is needed - Paul was afraid.

"And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling..."

The location is wicked

The initial outreach rejects the message

The governmental judicial system gets involved

Precept – The C o m m a n d that Moves

Addressed to his emotional issue

Addresses his responsibility to continue to preach

Move into your fear and into the very danger that confronts and conflicts you



Promise - The C o m m i t m e n t that Assures

Christ gives Himself - "I am with you..."

Christ assures him of safety to carry on

Purpose - The C a u s e that Motivates

There are elect in the city who will be saved

The preaching of the gospel is necessary for them to be saved

Product - The C o n s e q u e n c e s that Result

Governmental authorities give safe harbor

Ministers for 18 months

Many are converted

Church at Corinth is established

Wrestling with Questions



Series Summary

- All people live out of their hearts, their inner person.
- The heart's primary functions are believing and desiring with vulnerabilities to lies and lusts.
- God is bringing about situations to give us opportunities to obey Him from the heart.
- God is using situations to expose what is in our hearts through our actions and emotions.
- Because we are born sinners, our hearts are deceitful and difficult to penetrate. But God has provided His Word and Spirit to discern them.
- When we were converted, our hearts were circumcised by the Spirit, cut away from the flesh.
- When we were converted, we were placed into the death and resurrection of Christ, so that sin through the flesh no longer controls us.
- Though we have been raised with Christ spiritually, we still live in our earthly bodies of flesh and in the fallen world of the flesh. Through the flesh, our hearts are tempted to sin.
- We must live by faith that what God tells us and what God promises us is true.
- Because sin is not our master, we must not yield our bodies to sin so that it does master us but rather yield our bodies to God who is our master.
- We must not resort to living by the Law which is weakened by the flesh and sin so that it cannot produce obedience.



- We must walk in the Spirit, set our minds on the things of God so that we do not walk in the flesh and set our minds of the things of this world.
- Having been justified by God, we walk with God in a relationship as His sons seeking to please Him in all ways.