

NOW THE LORD SPOKE TO PAUL  
IN THE NIGHT BY A VISION,  
“DO NOT  
BE AFRAID,  
BUT SPEAK,  
AND DO NOT KEEP SILENT.”  
ACTS 18:9

## Decade of Availability “For I Am With You”

Paul now arrives at Corinth and stays there for a year and a half. He encounters great persecution but also great power and guidance by the Holy Spirit.

### A. Making Tents vv. 1-4

**1. Aquila and Priscilla:** As a result of a great persecution against the Jews at Rome—Aquila and Priscilla come to Corinth. They become leaders in the growing church.

**2. Tent making:** Paul, Aquila and Priscilla were tent makers. It was a portable trade that could go from city to city. It was a way for Paul to support himself, listen to the Lord and enter a city as a tradesman.

**3. On the Sabbath:** During the week Paul made tents but on the Sabbath ‘reasoned’ with both Jews and Greeks in the synagogue.

### B. Making Waves vv. 5-8

**1. Encouragement from Macedonia:** Paul was feeling the heat of opposition. Then Silas and Timothy arrive and bring great encouragement to Paul. He then ‘pressed in’ and preached the Gospel.

*Sometimes we need encouragement—  
other times we need to be the encourager.*

**2. Making waves and riding a wave:** Paul ‘shakes off’ the persecution and lands in the house of Justus—right next door to the synagogue. Then—Crispus the chief ruler of the synagogue receives the Messiah and joins the new house church.

**Letters to the Thessalonians:** Early on at Corinth, Paul writes his first letter to the Thessalonians and tells them that he is praying for them. A year later he writes the second letter and asks them to pray for him. *II Thes 3:1-2*

### C. Making Decisions vv. 9-10

**1. Be not afraid:** Paul must have been struggling under the constant persecution. Silas and Timothy encouraged Paul—but now the Lord speaks directly to Paul who knew His voice. It could be that Paul was ready to leave Corinth—but God wanted him to stay longer.

**How does God speak to you?** Do you know what His voice sounds like? Has He spoken to you in dreams and visions? Note: When God speaks it is mostly about His greater purpose for HIS will not yours.

### D. Making A Defense vv. 12-17

**1. Speaking up?** So the Jews bring Paul to the local Roman authority to get help in silencing him. When Paul starts to explain his side—the judge speaks up and tosses out the entire charge and those bringing the charge.

**2. Unintended consequences:** The Greeks living in Corinth got so upset with those who opposed Paul that they beat up the current leader of the synagogue. Note: These were not the new believers at Corinth. This was a political issue between the Greeks (Romans) and the Jewish community.

### Acts 18:1-17 (KJV)

**1** After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; **2** And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. **3** And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. **4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

**5** And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. **6** And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. **7** And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man’s house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. **8** And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

**9** Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: **10** For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. **11** And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

**12** And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, **13** Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law. **14** And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you: **15** But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters. **16** And he drave them from the judgment seat. **17** Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.