



Decade of Availability

Comfort and Power for the Church

This section is more than a travelogue as it reveals key components to ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is clear that God uses His people to minister the gospel and the kingdom.

A. Comfort and Power of Presence vv. 1-6

1. Giving comfort: The word for ‘exhortation’ in vs. 2 and ‘comfort’ in vs. 12 is “parakaleho” which is often used of the Holy Spirit. It means to call near or to comfort. As Paul and his companions visit the churches of Asia, Macedonia and Greece they bring comfort to them by ‘just being there.’

What does your presence bring?

B. Comfort and Power of Co-laboring v. 4

1. Meeting needs: The men mentioned in verse :4 may have been the leaders from various churches of this region who would accompany Paul to Jerusalem to bring an offering the Church there.

2. Team work: These men and others represent a team approach to ministry. Paul was well aware of the need for various spiritual gifts to accomplish the work of the Church. Jesus had sent out the 12 and the 70, two by two.

Who is on your team?

C. Comfort of the Word vv. 1-6

1. Paul’s writing: We don’t see it in this passage but during these months Paul wrote 2 Corinthians 8-9. While in Macedonia his mind had gone ahead to the church at Corinth. Then when he got to Corinth he wrote the entire book of Romans.

Paul lived the Word of God. He preached the gospel message wherever he went and often was writing letters that would be included in the canon of the ‘inspired’ Word of God.

Are you living and speaking the Word?

D. Comfort of Power and Healing vv. 7-12

1. Breaking bread: It had been a long round-about journey to Troas. By this time the Church was celebrating the Resurrection on Sunday, the first day of the week. The breaking of bread in vs. 7 may have been the observance of the Lord’s Table.

2. Healing comfort and power: Eutychus falls asleep and falls out a window to his death.

Indirect Prayer: Paul and the group could have petitioned God for a healing for Eutychus. “Lord, we ask that you come and heal him.”

Direct Prayer: The most effective ‘healing’ prayer is direct prayer. Mostly it’s laying on of hands. Here Paul lays on Eutychus and prays. Though we don’t have the prayer, it most likely was something like, “In the name of Jesus, rise and be healed.”

Who will you pray for this week?

Who will you lay hands on and pray for?

Acts 20:1-13 (KJV)

1 And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.

2 And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece,

3 And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.

4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

5 These going before tarried for us at Troas.

6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

12 And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.