



When Discouragement Dogs You

Series: "Real Christianity: How It Flourished", Part 9 of 13

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Big Idea: When we are discouraged and ready to quit, God can provide just the right encouragement and refreshing as we continue to do His will.

Text: Acts 18:1-28

Acts 18:9-10, "One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. 10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

I. Discouraging Cultural Tendencies.

1 Corinthians 6:11, "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

1 Corinthians 2:2, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

Acts 18:9b-10a, "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. 10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you."

1 Corinthians 2:3, "I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling."

II. Discouraging Personal Realities.

A. He is lacking friends.

Romans 16:3-4a, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me."

B. He is lean on resources.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14, "Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."

1 Corinthians 9:15, "But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast."

C. He is looking for impact.

Acts 17:34a, "A few men became followers of Paul and believed."

Acts 18:6b, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Acts 18:7, "Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God."

Acts 18:8, "Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized."

III. Discouraging Church Dynamics.

1 Corinthians 6:9b-c, 10b-c, 11, "the sexually immoral ... idolaters ... adulterers ... male prostitutes ... homosexual offenders 10 ... thieves ... the greedy ... drunkards ... slanderers ... swindlers ... 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."