Power From on High

Series: Power From On High **Title:** How God encourages His

Weary Servants

Lesson: 93

Text: Acts 18:1-8 **Date:** Feb 2, 2025

Some of God's greatest servants were discouraged.

Elijah

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

Moses

Numbers 11:11–15 So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have You been so hard on Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all this people on me?

King David Nehemiah

Apostle Paul

Paul reflected on how he felt as he entered Corinth.

1 Corinthians 2:3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

He ran out of money.

2 Corinthians 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

He wrote about his trial to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 3:7 for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

Acts 18:1–8 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, 3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. 4 And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. 5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

How God encourages His weary servants:

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"found" "came to them"
Disruptions are God's appointments for
•
Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.
"tent-makers"
Aquila & Priscilla were an interesting couple
1 And he was reasoning in the average avery Schhoth and
4 And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. "reasoning"
"persuade"

5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

Silas & Timothy brought an encouraging report regarding the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 3:6–7 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, 7 for this reason, brethren, in all our <u>distress and affliction</u> we were comforted about you through your faith;

Silas & Timothy brought a love gift.

2 Corinthians 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

The Philippians sent a love gift to Paul.

Philippians 4:15–16 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

"began devoting himself" [sunecho]

Paul had been seized with the passion to proclaim the truth about Jesus.

"solemnly testifying"

Implication

We should be grateful to God for His gifts of

- 1. Who has God brought into your life that you need to thank Him for?
- 2. Who do you need to personally thank for their friendship?

Discussion Guide

- 1. Recall a time in your Christian life when you were discouraged. What were the circumstances and how did you feel?
- 2. What major disruption have you experienced and what blessings came from it?
- 3. What has today's lesson taught you about the people in your life?
- 4. What did we learn from Paul about men who are called to preach?
- 5. How will today's sermon impact your life?

ANSWERS: Companionship, greater grace, friendship