

**March 1, 2026**

**Study Guide - Acts 13–20 – Mission Possible - Focus Text: Acts 18:1–23**

### **Opening Reflection**

**Have you ever experienced fatigue in the mission God has given you?**

- Daily or weekly exhaustion
- Year-after-year vocational weariness
- Long obedience in parenting or marriage
- A loved one who still hasn't surrendered to Jesus
- A ministry or cause where results seem invisible

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What kind of fatigue do you most relate to right now—physical, emotional, spiritual?
  2. Have you ever been tempted to give up on something God called you to?
  3. Why do we often assume strong Christians don't struggle with weakness?
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### **Part 1: The Stumble into Corinth**

#### **Read Acts 18:1–23**

Paul enters Corinth at the end of his second missionary journey—after roughly 3,000 miles over four years.

He leaves:

- Philosophical Athens
- Trusted companions
- Familiar ground

He enters:

- A morally corrupt trade city
- Spiritual opposition
- Emotional and physical exhaustion

#### **Signs of Fatigue in the Text**

- **Acts 18:6** – Paul shakes out his garments and says, “Your blood be on your own heads.”
- **Acts 18:18–21** – A hurried departure and unusual vow (haircut).
- **1 Corinthians 2:1–5** – Paul recalls arriving “in weakness and in fear and much trembling.”
- **2 Corinthians 12:7–10** – The “thorn in the flesh.”

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What evidence do you see that Paul was tired or discouraged?
  2. Why is it important that Scripture shows leaders realistically rather than idealistically?
  3. How does knowing Paul felt weak change your understanding of spiritual maturity?
  4. Have you ever mistaken weakness for failure?
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### **Part 2: Weakness on Display**

Paul later tells the Corinthians:

“I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling.”

— 1 Corinthians 2:3

He lacked:

- Impressive speech
- Persuasive arguments
- Visible strength

He faced:

- Doubts about his authority
- Comparisons to Apollos and Peter
- Criticism from within the church

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why do we often equate confidence with spiritual power?

2. In what areas of your life do you feel “not enough”?
  3. How does comparison drain spiritual endurance?
  4. What is the danger of building faith on personality instead of power?
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### **Part 3: The Strong Arm of God**

Paul’s weakness was not the end of the story.

#### **1 Corinthians 2:4–5**

“...a demonstration of the Spirit and of power... so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

#### **2 Corinthians 12:9–10**

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

#### **What God Did in Corinth**

- Provided partners: **Priscilla and Aquila** (Acts 18:2–3)
- Brought encouragement through Silas and Timothy
- Converted Justus
- Saved Crispus, leader of the synagogue (Acts 18:8)
- Established a thriving church

God did not remove weakness—He displayed power through it.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why does God often allow weakness to remain?
  2. How does weakness protect us from pride?
  3. What “fellow limpers” has God placed in your life?
  4. Where have you seen God work despite your limitations?
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### **Theology Theme: Power in Weakness**

One-word Biblical Theme: **Dependence**

God’s mission is:

- Initiated by Him
- Sustained by Him
- Completed by Him

Our responsibility: **Obedient participation**

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### **Application: When the Mission Feels Impossible**

If you feel:

- Tired, Weak, Discouraged, Ineffective

Remember:

- Weakness is not unspiritual.
- Fatigue is not failure.
- God’s power shines brightest in human limitation.

#### **Personal Reflection**

1. Where are you currently weary in doing good? (Galatians 6:9)
  2. What would it look like to boast in weakness rather than hide it?
  3. How can you lean into God’s grace instead of your own strength this week?
  4. Who can you invite into your struggle for prayer and partnership?
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### **Closing Encouragement**

Paul limped into Corinth.

But God built a church.

When Paul was weak, Christ was strong.

And the same strong God holds your mission in His hands