



## **“Do Not Be Afraid, For I Am With You!”**

### **ACTS Chapter 18**

#### **> Let's practice LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM!!! (six steps)**

##### **> Step #1 - (v1-3) Let's be TENTMAKERS!**

- **AQUILA** - (*eagle*) - a Jewish Christian living in Corinth with his wife **PRISCILLA** at the time of Paul's arrival from Athens (**Acts 18:2**). Aquila was born in **PONTUS** (located in Asia Minor) but lived in Rome until the emperor Claudius commanded that all Jews leave the city. He and Priscilla moved to Corinth, where Aquila took up his trade, tentmaking. When Paul left Corinth, Aquila and Priscilla traveled with him as far as Ephesus (**1 Cor 16:19**), where they met Apollos and instructed him more thoroughly in the Christian faith (**Acts 18:24-26**). Apparently, they returned to Rome, because Paul sent them greetings in his letter to the Romans (**Rom 16:3**).

- **PRISCILLA** - (meaning unknown) - the wife of **AQUILA** and a zealous advocate of the Christian cause (**Rom 16:3; 1 Cor 16:19**). Her name is also given as **PRISCA** (**2 Tim 4:19**). Aquila and Priscilla left their home in Rome for Corinth when the emperor Claudius commanded all Jews to depart from the city (**Acts 18:2**). Thus, they were fellow passengers of the apostle Paul from Corinth to Ephesus (**Acts 18**), where they met Apollos and instructed him further in the Christian faith (**Acts 18:26**).

- **TENTMAKER** - One who made tents. An ancient craft, tentmaking consisted of cutting and sewing together cloth, frequently of goat's hair, and attaching ropes and loops. Such crafts were passed from father to son. Paul's native city of Cilicia exported Cilician cloth, a cloth of goat's hair. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

##### **> Step #2 - (v4-8) Let's TESTIFY!**

- **Let's learn the art of the TESTIMONY:**

#1 – **REASON!** (*Ask, “You believe that, how about this!”*)

#2 – **PERSUADE!** (*TRUTH will win every time!*)

#3 – **TESTIFY!** (*JESUS is the CHRIST, MESSIAH, SAVIOR!*)

#4 – **BELIEVE!** (*Come to FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!*)

##### **> Step #3 - (v9-10) Let's TRUST in the words of JESUS!**

- **Jesus said, “Do not be afraid, but SPEAK”**

– **The opposite of FEAR is FAITH! Here's a history lesson:**

- **ABRAHAM** - **Genesis 15:1** - *After these things the word of the LORD CAME to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."*

- **ISSAC** - **Genesis 26:24** - *And the LORD APPEARED to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."*

- **JACOB** - Genesis 46:3-4 - *So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.*

- **JEHOSHAPHAT** - 2 Chronicles 20:15-17 - *And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD TO you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD IS with you."*

- **DANIEL** - Daniel 10:12-13 - *Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.*

*Daniel 10:19 - And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."*

- **MARY** - Luke 1:30-31 - *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

- **DISCIPLES** - Luke 5:9-10 - *For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."*

- **Remember our FAITH IS IN JESUS CHRIST!**

> **Step #4 - (v11-17) Let's TEACH the Word of GOD!**

- Once again PAUL is TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD! Let's embrace the benefits of GOD'S WORD as displayed in PSALM 119.

- **SOSTHENES** - (*of sound strength*) - the ruler of the synagogue at Corinth during the apostle Paul's first visit to this city (Acts 18:17). When the Roman ruler of the area refused to deal with the angry mob's charges against Paul, they beat Sosthenes. This may be the same Sosthenes as the one greeted by Paul in one of his Corinthian letters (1 Cor 1:1). If so, he must have become a Christian sometime after the mob scene in his city.

> **Step #5 - (v18-23) Let's TRAVEL with the GOSPEL!**

(v18-22) Paul's vow – a “super cut” – One commentator writes, “To show God his gratitude for helping him through a difficult time in Corinth, he took a Nazirite vow—a special pledge of separation and devotion to God (cf. Num. 6:2-5, 13-21). The vow generally lasted a specific period of time, although Samson (Judges 13:5), Samuel (1 Sam. 1:11), and John the Baptist (Luke 1:15) were Nazirites for life. In Paul's day, if someone made the vow

while away from Jerusalem, at the termination of his vow he would shave his head, as Paul did, afterwards present the shorn hair at the temple within 30 days.”

> **Step #6 - (v24-28) Let's TRAIN and DISCIPLE!**

- **Aquila and Priscilla instruct Apollos** proclaim Jesus is the Christ according to the Scriptures; proclaim Jesus died on the cross for our sins according to the Scriptures; proclaim Jesus has risen from the grave offering **forgiveness of sin and eternal life** to all who believe according to the Scriptures!