



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

February 6, 2022

When God Says, "I've Got This." Article by Tim Tripp

When I read about the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul, I see him as an iron man with a razor-sharp focus on spreading the gospel, making disciples and planting churches everywhere he goes. He seems undaunted by rejection and unflinching in persecution. I think, however, that at times Luke gives us a more human picture of his missionary experience. For instance, in Acts 18, Paul was in Corinth. As usual, he began his ministry in that town in the Jewish synagogue. He was accepted there, enthusiastically at first, but then people got worked up and opposed him and soon the Jews had stirred up a big uproar in town because of the message about Jesus. Paul parted ways with the Jews there and began to focus on the Gentiles who were more welcoming of his ministry and his message.

Again, it seems that Paul was unfazed by the Jewish led opposition but was he? In verses 9-10, Luke told about a vision Paul received from God saying to him, *"Do not be afraid, keep on speaking; do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."*

What do you suppose God knew that prompted the vision? Could it be that Paul was feeling some anxiety over what the Jews were plotting? He had been beaten and nearly killed several times by angry Jews and the mobs they stirred up. I doubt that they called it "post traumatic stress" then but it is what he was feeling. God told him, "I've got this. You keep doing what you are doing."

Some might ask why God did not protect him from the beatings and harsh treatment he received at other times. While incomplete, one way to answer that is that at times, persecution serves God's ultimate purpose. His ultimate purpose is to take his kingdom to the world. Sacrifices must be made to accomplish his goal. Sometimes that sacrifice is the ultimate sacrifice. When you commit yourself completely to Jesus and his mission, everything is on the table for the mission; life included. Paul was willing to pay that price and eventually did but that doesn't mean it wasn't hard at times to keep going in the face of threats and danger.

I think what we take from this is the knowledge that first of all, there are going to be challenges along the way. When people of faith live on mission, it will not always be smooth. The "holy tension" they create in society will at times draw harsh push back. When that happens Christians should remember the words God spoke to Paul, "Don't be afraid, keep speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you..."

God never promised that there would not be dark valleys along the path of life but he did promise that he would always be with us through the darkness. His presence will see us through the darkest nights. It will strengthen us in the difficult seasons of life and support us through struggle. The one emotion we should never give in to is fear. Fear holds us back from the mission. When we feel fearful, we should be encouraged to hear God's words to Paul. "Don't be afraid. I've got this."

ONLINE CONNECT CARD

We would love to connect with you! Please fill out our Online Connect Card at...

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Prayer Requests

Jonah Vanderheiden received news that his leukemia is treatable without chemo, and the medication is already working! Praise God for this news and hopeful prognosis. Please continue to keep him in your prayers as he works with doctors to manage medications and continue to pray for complete healing.

Kaelyn Delgado is having complications with her pregnancy. Please keep her in your prayers for a safe delivery. Continue also to pray for Joel as they continue testing to try to reach a proper diagnosis that will lead to answers regarding his health.

Melody (Tabor) Kwok currently has covid. Please pray for a speedy and full recovery.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Thom Robinson in the loss of his brother-in-law, Harry Risinger. Please keep the family in your prayers for peace and comfort at this time.

Last Week:

Sunday A.M. Class & Conversation -91
Worship - 244
Giving - 10,961
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 61

Attention Ladies:

Harding University is hosting the Bloom Conference for Women Feb. 18-19, 2022
See the flyer in the lobby for details on how to register!

Christeens is Coming!!

HOUSING

If you are interested in housing students for this event, please sign up soon! For more information please see Deanna Cole

HOSPITALITY ROOM

It's time to begin gathering items for the Hospitality Room!
Bottled Water, 12 packs of canned sodas, (please no 2 liters)
and prepackaged snacks,
or monetary donations are needed.
Drop off donated items in Room 11 until Feb. 25th.

For specific details about snack items and drinks needed, and to sign up to work a shift in the Hospitality Room, please see Wendy Loveland.

Due to the surge in local Covid cases, mask wearing is strongly recommended in our assemblies. Thank you for your cooperation!

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