

September 24, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday in Kingdomtide
Freedom from Your Fears
God's Answer to Our Anxieties

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **"Get a Grip!"**

Scripture: The Book of Acts 18:1-11 (Common English Bible)

¹ After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus. He had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul visited with them. ³ Because they practiced the same trade, he stayed and worked with them. They all worked with leather. ⁴ Every Sabbath he interacted with people in the synagogue, trying to convince both Jews and Greeks. ⁵ Once Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself fully to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ When they opposed and slandered him, he shook the dust from his clothes in protest and said to them, "You are responsible for your own fates! I'm innocent! From now on I'll go to the Gentiles!" ⁷ He left the synagogue and went next door to the home of Titus Justus, a Gentile God-worshipper. ⁸ Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household came to believe in the Lord. Many Corinthians believed and were baptized after listening to Paul. ⁹ One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Don't be afraid. Continue speaking. Don't be silent. ¹⁰ I'm with you and no one who attacks you will harm you, for I have many people in this city." ¹¹ So he stayed there for eighteen months, teaching God's word among them.

Join Pastor Kip for his "Preaching Today" podcasts featuring each Sunday sermon, and "United We Stand: The Top 10 Reasons I am Proud to be United Methodist," available on Spotify, iTunes, and iHeart Radio.

~ SERMON NOTES ~

Ralph Waldo Emerson, poet and ordained minister, said, *“Fear defeats more people than any other one thing in the world.”* All of us are afraid of something. Anxiety, apprehension, and unease persist, robbing us of joy and meaning in life. How can we “get a grip” on the force of fear in our lives?

1. Praise _____ in the _____.

“...Paul devoted himself fully to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ” (v. 5).

2. Trust _____ in the _____.

“...The synagogue leader and his entire household came to believe in the Lord. Many Corinthians believed and were baptized after listening to Paul” (v. 8).

3. Follow _____ in the _____.

“Don’t be afraid. Continue speaking. Don’t be silent. I’m with you...” (vs. 9-10).
