



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #353
The Eternal Ministry of Jesus in Heaven
The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus in the Early Church

Jesus Encourages Paul in Corinth on the Second Missionary Journey
Acts 18.9-11

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9 The Lord spoke to Paul one night in a vision:

“I command you to stop giving in to fear; but keep on speaking out, do not be silent. 10 For I myself am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because many people belong to me in this city.”

11 So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching the word of God among them.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Corinth
Timeline	About 23 Years After Jesus Ascended
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	Jesus' Eternal Ministry in Heaven
	The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus in the Early Church
Title:	Jesus Encourages Paul in Corinth on the 2nd Missionary Journey

Luke highlighted more of Jesus' ongoing work in heaven in today's reading. Paul was on his 2nd missionary journey, which had brought the gospel into Europe for this first time, in Greece. Jesus gave ministry direction and encouragement to his servant in a time when he needed it.

The apostle Paul had a huge capacity for enduring suffering. Jesus spoke of this when he first called Paul to be an apostle/missionary to the Gentiles. His list of hardships endured for the gospel in his second letter to the Corinthians offers sobering proof of how far he was willing to go in suffering for his Lord:

“I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25

Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?" II Cor. 11.23B-29

In spite of all of this, when Paul arrived in Corinth on his second missionary journey he was tired of receiving beatings, and being run out of town by his persecutors. This had happened in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea in succession as his Jewish tormentors followed him from town to town. Saul, the foremost Persecutor of Christians had become the Paul, the most Persecuted Christian. He was tired and beat down.

Jesus made a special point to encourage Paul in Corinth, so he would remain there for a fruitful time of ministry. The Lord promised his presence, his protection, and his power to draw many people to faith in the city of Corinth. A thriving church was born in the eighteen months that Paul devoted to ministry there. As Jesus said: "many people belong to me in this city."

Jesus knew that the Corinthian Church would become a vital part of church history, as Paul would write two lengthy letters to the congregation that have an important place in the New Testament. II Corinthians gives us more insight into the mind and heart of Paul as a person than any other of his writings, for he bared his soul to the Corinthians in that letter as he appealed to them to renew their relationship with him.

Jesus' heavenly ministry to Paul in Corinth was strategic in ways that Paul could not yet understand at the time Jesus spoke to him. Our Lord always directs us as individuals in line with the eternal purposes that he is working out through his entire body throughout the whole earth.

APPLICATION:

Jesus ascended back to heaven to connect himself through His Spirit to every believer of all time. He knows just what each of us needs on a moment by moment basis as we seek to serve him as an expression of our love. Just as he encouraged Paul in his time of need, he also ministers to us. His presence, protection, and power strengthen us over and over again.

It is when we are in the lowest, darkest places that we can expect our Lord to reveal himself to us in the most profound ways. This is who he is!

When you are most stressed and worn out, where do you turn?

How can you rest in the assurance that Jesus will renew his intimacy with you in that place?

Have you suffered to the limits of your capacity because of your faithfulness to Jesus?

What more do you need to endure for his sake? When will you yield this to him?