

# Today's Message

01/22/2012 CAC

## **Speak: Reclaim Our Voice Un-Silent for God**

**Acts 18:9; 28:31**

If we are going to be a church of influence, then we cannot seek to play it safe. We need to commit to taking risks, not being afraid of what the world would say, or what people would say or how they would respond to the gospel message. This world, this time that we live in now is desperately seeking purpose and clarity. And what more can give purpose and clarity than the gospel message of the Kingdom of God.

Most of us would agree that the Apostle Paul knew how to speak. That he was bold and even energetically loud in his pursuit in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. In Acts 18:9 the Lord spoke to Paul saying, "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent." God confronted Paul's fears because giving in to them would destroy any possibilities of a spiritual transformation in the city of Corinth. But this encounter with the Lord re-energized Paul. He eventually stayed for months engaging in a powerful ministry. We all need to be reminded occasionally not to let life or circumstances rob us of our voice and influence. We must keep on speaking about the Kingdom of God and not be afraid.

The church is often known more for what it stands against rather than what it stands for. Therefore, it is important that our church be known for:

1. Our battle to rescue those who are victims of injustice.
2. Bringing the gospel (the message of the Kingdom of God) to people who have not yet heard.
3. As one who contends for the moving (invasion) of the power of the Holy Spirit into every area of life and ministry.

### **Speak: reclaim our voice and be un-silent for God requires:**

1. Taking some risks amidst the fear you may have. (Acts 18:9)
  - Do not be afraid of those who hate the gospel, but just keep telling people about Jesus Christ.
2. Being bold in your conviction (what you believe) and your testimony. (Acts 28:31)
  - The heart of every Christian should be the desire to share the gospel.
3. Knowing and obeying the commands of Christ to share the gospel of the Kingdom of God to all people. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:16-20)
4. Being available. (Isaiah 6:8-9; Romans 10:13-18)
  - Have a willing heart to share the gospel and plant the seed.
  - Have a willing heart to pray for the seeds planted and for the weeds to be uprooted.
  - Have a willing heart to follow-up and water the seeds and plants.
5. Be Biblical.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does this lesson reveal to me about God?
2. What does this lesson reveal to me about myself?
3. How will I be different today because of what I have learned? What changes do I need to make?
4. What is my prayer for today?