

VOYAGER

Experiences That Shape Our Faith

About the Series: Experiences are powerful and can shape our Christian faith. But experiences should not be what defines our faith. Rather, it should serve to strengthen our faith and affirm what we already know to be the facts of our faith as recorded in the Scriptures. In this sermon series, we explore the journeys of Apostle Paul and how encountering life-changing experiences can teach valuable life lessons to voyagers like us who are on a journey called life.

Part 10

The Invisible Hand of God

Acts 18:1-28 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

When we go through challenges or are disappointed, discouraged, tired, sad, or upset, sometimes we wonder if God really exists because He doesn't seem to be helping us solve our problems. We ask why God doesn't intervene or make Himself more real and evident to us. But the reality is that God is always helping and aiding us just as He promised. Let's discover four ways that God's hands are evident in our lives. Read Acts 18:1-28.

God's invisible hand is seen through special people He uses to help us in our time of need (v. 1-11)

- How did God meet the financial needs of Paul through Priscilla and Aquila?
- Like Paul, how do you see your occupation and profession as means to propagate your primary mission in life, which is to share Christ with others?

- Why did Paul shift from sharing the Gospel to the Jews to sharing it to the Gentiles?
- How did God use Justus and Crispus and his entire family to encourage Paul in his seemingly discouraging situation?
- Share how God used a friend, a loved one, or a stranger to encourage you while going through a bad situation. How did God "speak" to you to assure you that you are never alone, that you are under His protection and there are other Christians who can be an encouragement to you?

God's invisible hand is seen through how He can redeem the worst of plans (v. 12-18).

- How was Paul able to stay in Corinth for a long time, safe and secure in spite of the Jews opposition?
- How was God's invisible hand at work in this situation?
- How did the most evil plan of killing Jesus Christ bring something good and beautiful?
- How is God at work to orchestrate something good to come out of your trials and challenges (Romans 8:28)?

God's invisible hand is seen through the protected freedom He gives us (v. 18b-22).

- How was God's invisible hand visible in Paul's freedom of choice?
- What are the choices that do not directly contradict any biblical principle that you know that God has given you freedom to decide on your own? Does it include taking risks in your life and tempting fate because God may allow you to experience the consequences of your stupidity?
- Share how God hindered something from happening following a bad choice you made. How do you feel that God's invisible hand ultimately protected you in not experiencing anything He does not allow?

God's invisible hand is seen through others He raises up so you are not alone (v. 23-28).

- How did God use Priscilla and Aquila in helping a Christian man named Apollos whom God used to show that Jesus is the Christ using the Scripture?

- In your knowledge, how do you think God raises up people to serve Him?

REFLECT

While we say we will always remember God's presence, at the first sign of trouble, we forget that He is with us and even accuse Him of abandoning us. How would you remember that God's invisible hand is seen through special people that God used to help you in your time of need? How did He redeem the worst of plans that you worked hard for? How did He protect you from freedom and choices He allows you to make? How did God raise up others so you are not alone in serving him through your occupation or profession?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You that I can completely depend on You because Your hand of protection and help is always with me. Thank You that I can always trust You because I am your child. Thank You that You never take Your eyes off of me. What a reassuring promise that I can count on You at all times and at all costs! In Jesus' precious name. Amen.