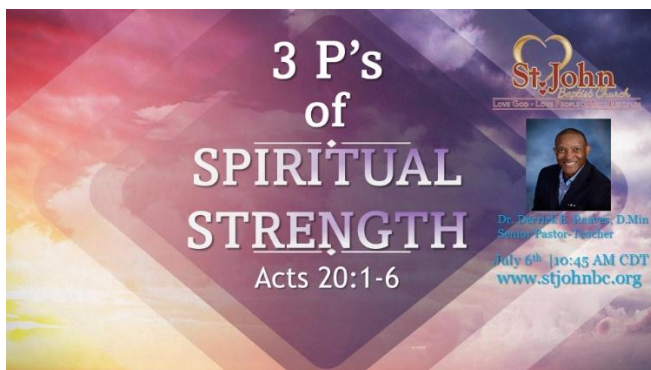




Sermon Notes

Acts 20:1–6 (ESV)

¹After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.

³There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

⁴Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

⁵These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas,

⁶but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

July 6 , 2025

(Answer key located on next page)

Introduction

Just like assembling a bookcase requires clear _____, building spiritual strength requires following God's proven blueprint. In Acts 20, Paul shows us three essential steps for spiritual strength.

I. Practice Purposeful _____ (Acts 20:1-2)

After the riot in Ephesus, Paul gathered believers and spoke words of _____ into their lives. The text says he gave them " _____ encouragement."

Three Ways to Practice Purposeful Encouragement:

1. _____ someone who's struggling this week.
2. _____ with people, not just for them.
3. _____ God's promises to discouraged hearts.

II. Pursue Persistent _____ (Acts 20:3)

Key Distinction:

- Most people think perseverance means never changing _____.
- Biblical perseverance means staying under _____ while maintaining _____.

Paul's Wisdom:

- Hold tightly to God's _____ while holding loosely to your _____.

Three Ways to Build Persistent Perseverance:

1. _____ to seek God's wisdom in difficulties.
2. _____ alternative approaches when blocked.
3. _____ forward with faith despite setbacks.

III. Promote Powerful _____ (Acts 20:4-6)

Paul's traveling companions weren't random—they were a _____ team from different churches, cultures, and backgrounds.

Three Ways to Build Powerful Partnerships:

1. _____ in small groups and Bible studies.
2. _____ your gifts with other believers.
3. _____ group kingdom projects.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. Which of the three P's do I struggle with most?
2. Who has been a source of encouragement in my life recently?
3. What situation in my life requires persistent perseverance right now?
4. How can I better work with others in my spiritual journey?

COMMITMENT:

This week, I commit to:

KEY VERSE TO REMEMBER:

"After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia."
- Acts 20:1

Next Steps:

- ☐ Call or text someone who needs encouragement this week
- ☐ Join a small group or Bible study
- ☐ Pray about a situation where I need to persevere
- ☐ Look for ways to partner with others in ministry
- ☐ Share this message with someone who needs it
- ☐ Watch the recording: <https://bit.ly/4ayOhjR>

Answer Key

Introduction: instructions <u>I. Practice Purposeful Encouragement.</u> Hope much Phone Pray Proclaim <u>II. Pursue Persistent Perseverance.</u> Course pressure Hope purposes methods Pause Plan Press	<u>III. Promote Powerful Partnerships.</u> • diverse • Participate • Pool • Pursue
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The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins. Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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