

Reflection on today's Reading and Gospel... Acts 18: 9-18 John 16: 20-23

We learn today how God works, even when the odds are stacked against us. This certainly reminds me to trust when things get difficult. How often have I prayed at such times but continued to be weighed down by anxiety and even fear? Only to find my prayer answered, often, as expressed by Paul in today's Reading, "In the most unexpected of ways!"

The Gospel Acclamation tells us that the Holy Spirit will ".....remind you of all I have said to you."

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers (who are us today) "You will be weeping and wailing while the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy."

The disciples are sad because Jesus is leaving them. "Like a woman in childbirth", we must expect to experience pain and suffering in order to receive, "The joy of new life."

Now, we may feel uncertain because we want to know the how's, why's, when's and what ifs. But if we listen to Jesus and trust in his promises, no matter what the trial, then, we too will be amazed, and our hearts will be, "Full of the joy that no one can take away from us."

When we encounter difficulties in our lives, let us ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and trust.
ALWAYS.

Chris Burger, 22/5/2020