

Week 22  
149/216

**Transforming Daily**  
**“ . . . and took courage . . . ”**  
*Acts 28:15*

The text here in the book of Acts records an event that concerns the life of Paul. Paul was a leader in the early church. He had experienced a great deal of both praise and problems throughout His ministry. Paul faced disappointment, discouragement, disagreements, disaster, destruction and death. Paul had many legitimate reasons to give up on ministry in general and specifically on those with whom and for whom he served. However, in this case, Paul, under guard and having just faced one horrific trip on the way to Rome, is edified by the fellowship with other believers (v.15a.).

There isn't a responsible Christian alive that hasn't felt the frustration of discouragement in the midst of or just after serving others in ministry based on the lack of physical manifested results in the lives of those who were just served. On the other hand, what joy there is in seeing those come along side of the one ministering. What edification and encouragement there is to the one who has poured out his or her life into the lives of others and sees the fruit of their labor manifested in the reduplication of that ministry from one generation to the next.

Believers are to use their spiritual gift(s) to edify fellow believers (among other spiritual applications). There is strength in numbers. “A three-fold cord is not easily broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

If you're feeling discouraged or over whelmed by the circumstances of life, maybe all you need is to fellowship with other believers. Perhaps you're feeling alone, and might very well be alone in whatever it is you're experiencing, but know that others have felt the same way. Remember also that your life may be the pick-me-up to others, that what, in the past, the lives of others were to you. Maybe it's time for you to follow what was said of Paul concerning fellowship with other believers that “he thanked God and took courage.”