

**The Life Journeys of Paul: Lesson 4**  
**Discouraged...but not Defeated**  
**Acts 17-18**

**1. God often leads us where we never expected to go....**

**Keep your ears open to His call.**

(Acts 17:15-16)

**2. As a servant of God you will often feel like a misfit in this world....**

**Keep your eyes fixed upon God.**

(Acts 17:16-21)

**Paul's speech in Athens is superb, and it was well thought out for his audience.**

**(1)** He begins with a **warm attention-getter** that compliments his listeners directly.

(Acts 17:22)

**(2)** Paul then uses a **relevant illustration**. Paul had done his homework.

(Acts 17:23a)

**(3)** Next Paul uses an interesting yet **brief transition**.

(Acts 17:23b)

**(4)** He then proceeds to the **heart of his speech**.

(Acts 17:24-27a)

**(5)** Next Paul holds their attention by making it **personal** and by **quoting** their own literature.

(Acts 17:27b-28)

**(6)** He then **challenged** them with theological **truth woven neatly into the Athenian culture**.

He met them where they were at home, where they could understand.

(Acts 17:29)

**(7)** Finally Paul drives home the **application**.

(Acts 17:30-31)

**3. To whatever God has called us, we need to do it with quality....**

**Keep your mind focused on God's work.**

(Acts 17:22-31, Colossians 3:17, 23-24)

**4. When the results are slim, do not despair....**

**Keep your heart yielded to God.**

(Acts 17:33, 18:1, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

**5. When our plans and dreams are postponed or short-circuited, because**

**God has a better way....**

**Keep your whole being--heart, soul, mind, and strength--devoted to God and His service.**

(Acts 18:1-11, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3, Mark 12:30)