

III. Priscilla and Aquila Correct Apollos

When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately. Acts 18:26

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ... ⁶We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives we are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin. Romans 6:3,4,6,7

IV. Apollos is ready to be sent out to Corinth

²⁷ Apollos had been thinking about going to Achaia, and the brothers and sisters in Ephesus encouraged him to go. They wrote to the believers in Achaia, asking them to welcome him. When he arrived there, he proved to be of great benefit to those who, by God's grace, had believed. Acts 18:27

Paul would later write of Apollos ministry in Corinth:

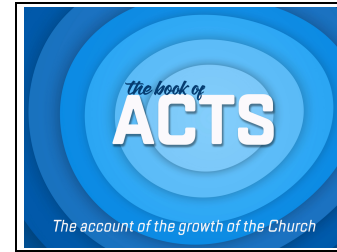
I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:6

The text closes with this verse:

He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah. Acts 18:28

Community Group Questions:

1. How do you understand the difference between John's Baptism of repentance and Jesus' baptism of the Holy Spirit?
2. Apollos was an excellent teacher, and even preached Christ as Messiah before he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. What do you think empowered him during this time?
3. Priscilla and Aquila's correction of Apollos worked. Where has correction changed you for the better?



How the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Differs From John's Baptism Acts 18:23-28

Stories Backdrop: Paul recently returned home to Antioch after his successful second missionary trip through modern day Turkey and Greece. (Acts 18:22). Paul most likely spent the winter of 51/52 A.D. there, but during the spring set out again on what is known as his third missionary journey. Leaving Antioch Paul took the land route having stopped in his hometown of Tarsus before crossing through the Cilician Gates of the Tarsus mountains and down through the Lycus Valley to the churches he established on his first missionary journey back in 47A.D.

Luke then records a story about a teacher of some renown from Alexandria Egypt, Apollos.

Today's Scripture:

²³ After spending some time in Antioch, Paul went back through Galatia and Phrygia, visiting and strengthening all the believers. ²⁴ Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. ²⁵ He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John's baptism. ²⁶ When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately. ²⁷ Apollos had been thinking about going to Achaia, and the brothers and sisters in Ephesus encouraged him to go. They wrote to the believers in Achaia, asking them to welcome him. When he arrived there, he proved to be of great benefit to those who, by God's grace, had believed. ²⁸ He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah. Acts 18:23-28

I. A Man Named Apollos

Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. ²⁵ He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John's baptism. Acts 18:24,25

- Apollos was not an apostle- "*He had been taught the way of the Lord*"

Contrast this with the Apostle Paul's credentials:

¹¹ *Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. ¹² I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.* Galatians 1:11,12

Apostles in the NT, received their revelation directly from Jesus.

3 factors to Apollos effectiveness as a teacher:

1. An eloquent speaker who *knew the Scriptures well*, vs 24
He had been *taught the way of the Lord*, vs 25a
2. He taught others about Jesus with an *enthusiastic spirit* vs 25b
3. He taught others about Jesus ...*with accuracy*. Vs 25c

But Luke says he only knew the baptism of John.
However, he knew only about John's baptism. Vs.25

The baptism of John refers to John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin.
(See Matthew Chapter 3, Mark Chapter 1, Luke chapters 1 & 3 and John Chapters 1&3)

John's baptism consisted primarily of these two great truths:

1. Forgiveness of sins is possible only on the basis of repentance.

⁷ *But when he (John) saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.* Matthew 3:7-10

You may recall a story from Jesus' life:

Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." ... (and) the fig tree withered from the roots. Mark 11:13,14,20

The lesson of this story is that Jesus is always looking for fruit in our lives, be it repentance or demonstrations of godly character.

2. One was coming who would complete the work he had begun.

"I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Luke 3:16

II. What was missing from Apollos teaching?

His message was incomplete perhaps on the most important aspect of the Good News; **Jesus death, resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

Christ baptism differs from John's in that it symbolizes the believer's union with Christ alone in his death, burial and resurrection as our salvation.