

## **Anatomy of Revival Part 3**

### **Meanwhile, Back at Ephesus**

***24 “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.”***

What was going on back in Ephesus? The plan of God does not stop when the main minister leaves a city. God always has a plan and never leaves a group of hungry people without a minister.

Alexandria was a university city and Apollos was apparently a language or speech major. He was eloquent and an unbeliever until some of John the Baptist’s followers came to Alexandria and led him to the Lord. He grew in the scriptures he had known since he was a child and became powerful in showing salvation from the Old Testament and John’s ministry. He was now called by the Holy Spirit to come to Ephesus to instruct believers and sinners in the plans of God. He not only led many to the Lord, but he would also, be instructed himself by Aquilla and Priscilla.

***25 “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only (up to) the baptism of John.”***

Since he had been led to the Lord by the disciples of John the Baptist, he only knew of the plan of God up to John’s baptism. He knew nothing of New Testament doctrine – position in Christ, the new birth, the indwelling Holy Spirit, the infilling of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, the Body of Christ, the Church, the priesthood of each believer, and many other areas in this age of grace.

***26 “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”***

Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos speak in the temple and knew immediately he had no knowledge of the New Testament. After he spent time with Paul, they were capable to lead him into the deeper truths of the dispensation of grace – the Church Age. This is the importance of learning from anyone, remaining teachable.

***27 “And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace;”***

Achaia is southern Greece. Apollos went there with letters of recommendation and was able to help the new believers who were recently saved by grace. He took what he just learned from Aquila and Priscilla and taught it to the saints.

**28 “For he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.”**

The strength of Apollos was leading Jews to Jesus through the Old Testament scriptures. The teaching strength of Aquila and Priscilla was seen when they took Apollos to the next level in New Testament understanding. Paul’s strength was apostolic, taking the new converts into the supernatural, revival, and pioneering churches.

### **Just Like Jesus’ Disciples at Samaria – Apollos Watered**

**“For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants, and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.**

**For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.”** (1 Corinthians 3:4-9)

Jesus used this language with His disciples, telling them they reaped after the labors of others (John 4:37-39)

### **Paul Returns to Ephesus (Acts 19)**

**1 “And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples...”**

While Paul went back to Jerusalem and Antioch, three people have helped bring Ephesus to the level it will be when Paul returns. Two people Paul knew about and one he did not. Apollos has been taught by Aquilla and Priscilla in the revelation of the new covenant and has gone to Corinth where he would remain and pastor for a short time. The disciples who met with Paul would be key to the revival in Ephesus.

Paul was gone for several months is refreshed in his soul and body. He is now ready to give himself completely to the revival which will occur in this key city of Asia Minor.

The men he meets are disciples. They are born again following God’s word and will be filled with the Holy Spirit. This shows us revival is supernatural. Great signs and wonders are to accompany the teaching of the word of God at Ephesus.

**2 “He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? “And they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”**

The Holy Spirit can be received at the point of the new birth or after. Paul asked the believers he met if this had happened to them. Paul must have recognized a deficiency in their Christian lives much the same as Aquilla and Priscilla recognized a spiritual deficiency in the life of Apollos. These twelve were born again but were not instructed in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.