

Acts 18:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

Analysis

Apollos was 'instructed in the way of the Lord' and taught 'accurately the things of the Lord,' yet knew 'only the baptism of John.' This shows how sincere believers can have partial understanding requiring further instruction. Aquila and Priscilla's gentle correction - taking him aside to 'expound unto him the way of God more perfectly' - models humble teaching that builds on existing knowledge.

Historical Context

Apollos's knowledge of John's baptism but not Christian baptism suggests he learned about Jesus through John's disciples before Pentecost. His Alexandrian origin meant he likely received teaching from early believers who had incomplete understanding.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you humbly receive correction when your sincere understanding proves incomplete?
2. What does Aquila and Priscilla's approach teach about correcting others - privately, gently, building on what they know?

Interlinear Text

οὗτος ἦν κατηχημένος τὴν ὁδὸν τοῦ Κυρίου, καὶ[;]
This man **was** **instructed in** **the way** **of the Lord** **and**
G3778 G2258 G2727 G3588 G3598 G2962 G2532

ζέων τῷ πνεύματι ἐλάλει καὶ ἐδίδασκεν ἀκριβῶς
being fervent **G3588** **in the spirit** **he spoke** **and** **taught** **diligently**
G2204 G4151 G2980 G2532 G1321 G199

τὰ περὶ τοῦ Κυρίου, ἐπιστάμενος μόνον τὸ
the things of **G3588** **of the Lord** **knowing** **only** **G3588**
G4012 G2962 G1987 G3440

βάπτισμα Ἰωάννου.
the baptism **of John**
G908 G2491

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:3 (Baptism): And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Romans 12:11 (Spirit): Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Acts 9:2 (Parallel theme): And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Acts 19:23 (Parallel theme): And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

Acts 19:9 (Parallel theme): But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

Mark 12:14 (Parallel theme): And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

Hosea 14:9 (References Lord): Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.