

August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

## More Than Gifted

### *An Exceptional Man with an Incomplete Message*

*Acts 18:24-28*

Apollos was gifted by God, disciplined in the Scriptures; and yet his greatest strength was his teachableness, which allowed correction to make him a more effective instrument in the hands of God.

#### **A Gifted Man**

*Acts 18:24* “Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.”

❖ Life, gifts, direction, and provision come through the sovereign grace of God.

*James 1:17* “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

*John 3:27* “John answered, ‘A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.’”

*Acts 17:25-26*, “Nor is [God] served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,”

♦ Apollos' eloquence reveals that he had a God-given ability to speak, connected to biblical knowledge.

✠ *John 14:26* “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

✠ *1 Corinthians 2:12-13* “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.”

- Unexplained giftedness should always point to God!

- Competency in the Scriptures reveals strength and capability in handling God's Word.

✠ *2 Timothy 2:15* “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

✠ *Ezra 7:9-10* “For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

*Acts 18:25a* “He had been instructed in the way of the Lord...”

♦ Someone must have trained Apollos, and he flourished because God gave him the ability to receive knowledge and training.

♦ God expects us to steward the gifts He has given us.

## A Disciplined Believer

- ❖ Spiritual giftedness requires disciplined devotion: God-given gifts must be cultivated through genuine seeking, careful learning, and intentional growth.

📖 2 Peter 1:3-8

- ♦ Competent in Scriptures

*Acts 18:25a “He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit...”*

- ♦ Apollos' life was defined by the fact that he had been instructed in the way of the Lord.
- ♦ Apollos displayed a passion for the things he believed.
- ♦ Zeal without truth can mislead; truth without zeal can grow lifeless. A growing believer must have both: a fervent heart and a mind that is governed by the word of God.

*Acts 18:25b “... he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.”*

- ♦ His effectiveness wasn't simply the product of natural ability; he cultivated the gift of God.

📖 2 Timothy 1:6-7 “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

*Acts 18:26 “He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

- ♦ Apollos was empowered by the truth that he knew; he is not depicted as a false teacher. He was a faithful teacher whose understanding had not yet reached its fullness.

## A Correctable Leader

- ❖ Apollos' life reveals that a person can be gifted, disciplined, and still need correction. The issue is not whether gifted servants will ever need help; the issue is whether they will remain humble enough to receive it.

*Acts 18:26 “He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

*Matthew 25:21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”*

- ♦ Apollos was correctable and willing to grow.

📖 Hebrews 12:5b-6 “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.”

➤ Correction is an act of love.

➤ Correction is not rejection.

- ♦ Apollos was willing to receive counsel and therefore became an effective leader and valuable discipler.

📖 *Acts 18:27–28 “And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.”*