

Ready to Share

“And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly”
(Acts 18:26).

Aquila and Priscilla quickly realized Apollos’s message was incomplete. Because of their sensitivity, Apollos accepted truth, became an outstanding preacher of the gospel, and was greatly used in Corinth.

“They invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately” (Acts 18:26, *NIV*).

“They took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately” (Acts 18:26, *NKJV*).

Several Bible translations (*NKJV, NASB, NASB Updated*) say, “They took him aside.” The *NIV* declares, “They invited him to their home.” Clearly, they took him to a private place, away from where he would be embarrassed, and explained the way of God more adequately and accurately to him.

Aquila and Priscilla were willing to invest time in Apollos. His success was not a threat to them. They were willing to rescue him with truth, rather than throw him a short rope while he floated at a far distance.

Andrew Fox in *The Apprentice Leader* says, “If a man was drowning twenty feet away from your boat and you threw him a fifteen foot rope, an observer might say that you went more than half way to saving the man! But if he drowned what was achieved?”

Aquila and Priscilla did not:

-  Compromise the truth.
-  Condemn Apollos to hell.
-  Humiliate him publicly.
-  Put down his relationship with God.

They were not intimidated by Apollos’s long list of qualifications.

They:

-  Were ready to give a fuller explanation of the way to God.
-  Looked for opportunities to share the truth.
-  Were sensitive to the correct timing and place to reveal truth to Apollos.
-  Understood what it meant to serve and fear the Lord; so they persuaded others. (See 2 Corinthians 5:11.)

Let us look at some reasons why Aquila and Priscilla were not intimidated (and why intimidation exists). Through this study, we will learn that we have no reason to be panic-stricken when witnessing.

- 📖 They knew the truth and its power to set people free (John 8:32).
- 📖 Shyness was replaced with boldness (Acts 4:20, 29).
- 📖 They did not compare themselves with Apollos. When we compare ourselves with others, we become concerned with social rank, talents, educational level, speaking ability, or popularity. This produces a lack of confidence, fear, and intimidation. God has not given us a spirit of fear and intimidation. (See 2 Timothy 1:7.)

“Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God” (2 Corinthians 3:4-5, *NIV*).

“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you” (2 Corinthians 10:12-13, *NIV*).

- 📖 People become intimidated when they are concerned about their own glory, and what people say about them (Luke 6:26). They long for the praises of men and want to be accepted by others. We should be more anxious about giving glory to God, preferring and caring for others (Romans 12:10), and being accepted in God’s sight (Romans 4:20-22). Our goal is not popularity, but obedience to the voice and will of God.

“Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10, *NIV*).

- 📖 The intimidated look inward at themselves, outward to others, and decide, “I cannot do it.” This conclusion was reached by ten of the twelve spies sent into the Promised Land (Numbers 13:31).

We must look upward to God (Hebrews 12:2; Numbers 13:30). He is able (Ephesians 3:20).

- 📖 People become intimidated when they have a low image of who they are in Christ (Numbers 12:31).

Apollos possessed a teachable spirit and was receptive to truth, but that was not enough. Aquila and Priscilla had to step forward, ready to share.

Study Questions

1. What happened because of Aquila and Priscilla’s sensitivity to Apollos’s needs? _____
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2. What approach did they use so Apollos would not be embarrassed publicly? _____

3. What did Aquila and Priscilla not do when witnessing to Apollos? _____

4. Why were Aquila and Priscilla not intimidated? _____

5. What happens when we compare ourselves with others? _____

6. When do people become intimidated? _____

7. Why do people come up with the "I cannot do it" attitude? _____

Additional Notes
