

Good morning! Can you think of someone who really helped you to grow in your relationship with God? I have been grateful for those who have helped me along the way. The very first issue that I had to deal with (and I confess that I *still* deal with it) is pride. Because I had been raised in a church that taught a lot of doctrine and a lot of Bible, I had a hard time receiving instruction from someone who had been less rigorously trained. Since then, I have been fortunate to know men and women of God who could help me to grow and change. We need them! I'll always be grateful for the loving and grace-filled encouragement I have received from men like Ray Liptrap, Jim McNally, and George Taylor---men who had walked with God a long time and were willing to listen to me and encourage me along the way. This morning, let's look at one person who God called into ministry---but needed a little help to get it right:

Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. 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. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately. 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. He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah.

Acts 18: 24-28

I have always loved this because I've seen the principles highlighted in it countless times! In today's passage we are introduced to a young man named Apollos, who is described as "*an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well... he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit and with accuracy.*" I'd love to be described that way, wouldn't you? That was good, as far as it went, but it seems that Apollos only knew about the

baptism of repentance that John preached. Priscilla and Aquila saw something in Apollos, so they *“took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.”* It seems that Apollos was not only a gifted teacher; he was also *teachable*. How about that? Sometimes that combination can be pretty hard to find! We learn then that Priscilla and Aquila not only helped him in his understanding but they encouraged him in his ministry and even used their connections to help him to move forward into his teaching ministry. This Priscilla and Aquila are the same couple who invested their time in Paul in the early days of his ministry. God really used that couple in a wonderful way. How about you this morning? Has God invested things in your life that others might use? Sometimes older believers aren't as helpful as they could be---they would rather criticize young leaders than help them. Do you know someone who is growing in ministry but could use some encouragement or some help in growing in their ministry? Why don't you think about how you might help them?