



Decade of Availability Spirit Dedicated Spirit Taught

We come now to the end of Paul's second missionary journey and the start of his third. Though the Holy Spirit is not mentioned in this passage regarding Paul's plans and travels—the Spirit continues to guide and direct him.

A. Spirit Dedicated vv. 18-23

1. Making a vow: v. 18 It appears that sometime after the Holy Spirit spoke to

Paul in a night vision that Paul entered into a Nazarite vow. This involved NOT cutting his hair during the time of the vow—possibly to honor the Lord for speaking to him in the vision.

Nazarite vow: Heb. “nazir” to be separate: A life devoted to God and separated from all sin (Num. 6:2-21). Abstinence from wine, no cutting of the hair until the vow is completed.

Paul's vow: When he leaves the city of Corinth he goes to the port city of Cenchrea...and there he cut his hair. This signified the ending of that particular vow. However, all vows must be completed in Jerusalem. So Paul kept the hair of his vow until he got to Jerusalem where he gave it as an offering (v. 23).

2. Taking a journey: vv. 19-23 Paul makes a quick stop at Ephesus going into the synagogue but not staying even though they wanted him to. Paul will spend much of his third missionary journey in and around Ephesus. He lands in Caesarea on the sea coast and goes UP to Jerusalem to the feast and to complete his vow and then goes DOWN to Antioch. When you go to Jerusalem you always GO UP and when you leave you always GO DOWN.

3. Promise keeping: How good are you at keeping a promise or commitment? Paul was committed to the end.

More perfectly dedicated—separated to Him

B. Spirit Taught vv. 24-28

1. Apollos: He was eloquent, educated, taught in the scriptures and evidently filled with the Holy Spirit “fervent in the Spirit.” However, his learning was not complete and he only knew of the baptism of John.

2. Priscilla and Aquila: Paul left them in Ephesus and they heard Apollos speaking in the synagogue. They seek him out to teach him ‘more perfectly.’ “Set his path straight.”

When teachers need a teacher: Being filled with the Spirit does not insure full understanding. It's possible to move in the gifts of the Spirit and still have incomplete understanding of God's Word.

More perfectly taught—growing in His Word

Here's how we grow in Him and His Word...

...the book of Proverbs model!

Knowledge—discovering the facts

Understanding—assembling the facts and finding truth

Wisdom—acting on the truth

Acts 18:18-28 (KJV)

18 And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

20 When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;

21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.

23 And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 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.

26 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.

27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.