

*After he had spent some time [there], he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples. (Acts 18:23 NKJV)*

Believers still need encouragement and building up.

*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV)*

**Grace grows best in a greenhouse called the local church.**

*Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man [and] mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. (Acts 18:24 NKJV)*

God orchestrates divine appointments people meeting people at just the right time.

*This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. (Acts 18:25 NKJV)*

God can use us even before we feel 'fully ready.'

Apollos didn't understand Christian baptism, the symbol of resurrection life.

Or the baptism in the Holy Spirit that empowers us to live new lives.

*John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16 NKJV)*

Have you plateaued in your knowledge of the Word or the person of the Holy Spirit?

*So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (Acts 18:26 NKJV)*

Too many times we correct people publicly or harshly without love.

*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who [are] spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (Galatians 6:1 NKJV)*

This is a gentle, Spirit-filled correction.

*Give [instruction] to a wise [man], and he will be still wiser; Teach a just [man], and he will increase in learning. (Proverbs 9:9 NKJV)*

**Gospel doctrine demands gospel culture—truth seasoned with grace.**

*And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; (Acts 18:27 NKJV)*

**Our scorecard isn't seating capacity but sending capacity.**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, (Ephesians 2:8 NKJV)*

*for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ. (Acts 18:28 NKJV)*

**Cultural conversations require both conviction and compassion.**

*All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV)*

This closes the chapter, but leads directly into a continuation.

*And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples (Acts 19:1 NKJV)*

**Salvation is the front door, not the whole house.**

*he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." (Acts 19:2 NKJV)*

**The indwelling is regeneration; the empowering is enduement.**

*And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." (Acts 19:3-4 NKJV)*

**Repentance without Christ becomes moralism.**

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4 NKJV)*

**Baptism isn't a graduation ceremony; it's a burial followed by a birth announcement.**

*When they heard [this], they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:5 NKJV)*

The progression: hearing, believing, and responding.

*And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. (Acts 19:6-7 NKJV)*

This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

*And when He had said this, He breathed on [them], and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22 NKJV)*

That was regeneration. And followed by empowerment at Pentecost.

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NKJV)*

Two distinct but essential works: salvation and empowerment.

*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:5 NKJV)*

Both are essential: one makes you alive in Christ; the other gives you power to live for Christ.

*So he answered and said to me: "This [is] the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6 NKJV)*

Your witness, your endurance, your joy, your boldness — all of it flows from Him.

**Don't let charismatic excess scare you from biblical expectation.**

This is how the gospel advances: strengthened churches and Spirit-filled witnesses.

**Stay anchored – Keep learning – Live sent.**