

sermon notes

November 30, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
No Other Name | “Three Episodes in Ephesus” | **Acts 18:24–19:20**

Three episodes that prove “Ignorance isn’t Bliss”:

- 1) Preaching without knowledge of the _____
(Acts 18:24–28)

- 2) Discipleship without knowledge of the _____
(Acts 19:1–7)

- 3) Spirituality without _____ in _____
(Acts 19:8–20)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 18:24–19:20. How do these three episodes in Acts (see notes above) teach us about the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit and the life-threatening powerlessness of his absence? Is it possible to be a true Christian and not be indwelt by the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? What biblical evidence supports your answer (e.g., Rom 8:9; Gal 3:2–3; 1 Cor 12:3; Eph 1:13–14; Titus 3:5–6)?

Consider Acts 18:24–28. What do you think Apollos was preaching in Ephesus before he met Priscilla and Aquila? What do you think Priscilla and Aquila told him when they “explained to him the way of God more accurately” (18:26)? Do people like Apollos exist today? How can someone be “competent in the Scriptures” and “fervent in spirit,” and still need to be corrected?

GET PERSONAL

What can we learn from Apollos’s humility in receiving correction from Priscilla and Aquila? What can we learn from Priscilla and Aquila’s boldness in correcting the passionate Apollos?

Consider Acts 19:1–7. Describe these “disciples” who had not yet received the Holy Spirit. When did you first commit your life to Christ? Did you sense the power of the Spirit come over you when you were saved? Keep in mind, some people have a dramatic experience at conversion; others have a quiet one. The evidence of the Spirit is ultimately seen in life change, not in intensity of emotion.

What evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence have you observed since your conversion? Has the fruit of the Spirit grown in your life (see Gal 5:22–23)? How have you used and developed your spiritual gifts? How have you grown in Christlikeness?

Consider Acts 19:8–20. What can we learn from this passage about the power of demonic forces in our world? Should we fear those demonic forces? Why or why not? These sons of Sceva wanted a Jesus you can use rather than a Jesus who can save. What’s the danger of coming to Jesus with that mentality?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What can you learn from Paul’s approach in Ephesus about how to lovingly engage people who misunderstand the faith? How might you approach a person who knows about Jesus and is familiar with him but does not have saving faith?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit (see Eph 4:30–31)? Have you ever grieved the Holy Spirit by ignoring his conviction in your life? If so, describe your experience and how it adversely affected your relationship with God. How did you regain a “sensitivity” to the Spirit’s conviction in your life?