



# 1 | ACTS 18

## GOD'S WORK IN GOD'S WAY

*God's work done in God's way shall never lack God's supply.*

### Outline

1. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN HIS WORK (18:1-5)

2. GOD'S PEOPLE IN HIS WORK (18:18, 26)

The Character of His People

*1. Steadfast and Faithful*

*2. Willing to serve others*

*3. Evangelists*

*4. Knowledgeable of the Truth of the Word of God*

*5. Teachers*

*6. They worked a trade or business*

*7. Ran a house ministry*

The Heart of His People

God's Supply for His People

3. GOD'S PROVISION IN HIS WORK

Specific Ministries of Living Hope

Under the Ministry of Aquila & Pricilla Umbrella

### Call to Worship

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. —Psalm 145:1-3

### Songs

*Is He Worthy?*

*I Stand Amazed in the Presence*

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Thank You Jesus for the Blood*

*Jesus Name Above All Names*

### Announcements

**WELCOME:** We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

## Introduction

God is at work among us and wants to make each of us useful for the kingdom. God will provide everything you need for fruitfulness (Jn 15:1-5). God will provide!

Depend on it. God's work done in God's way will never lack his supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds and He can just as easily supply them ahead of time as afterwards, and He much prefers doing so.—*Hudson Taylor*

Don't get caught up in your own powers and abilities.

**Isaiah 41:10** | Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

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## 1. GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN HIS WORK (18:1-5)

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God is leading and guiding. The Holy Spirit can come in a cataclysmic way, but he can come in still small voice. If you are here as an unbeliever, he's revealing Christ to you as Savior and Lord, convicting of sin and showing you your need of Christ.

- Paul is converted at Damascus in Acts 9.
- He begins preaching but so much trouble is stirred up that they send him off to Tarsus (Acts 9:30).
- Paul is then found in Antioch and the Holy Spirit calls him forth with Barnabas to begin his first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-4).
- Paul separates from Barnabas, joins with Silas and begins a second missionary journey (Acts 15:34-41).
- Paul and Silas are sent by vision and arrive at Philippi and the church of Philippi is started (Acts 16).
- Paul goes to Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens (Acts 17).
- Everywhere he goes he preaches the gospel, men and women come to Christ, churches are planted, opposition is raised up.

**Acts 18:1-3** | After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had **commanded all the Jews to leave Rome**. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tentmakers.

**Acts 18:5** | But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

How hard it must have been for Pricilla and Aquila to leave Rome. It was God's special providence to place Aquila and Pricilla outside of Rome, their comfort zone.

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## 2. GOD'S PEOPLE IN HIS WORK (18:18, 26)

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God uses people. He doesn't use angels or program robots. He uses broken, weak human beings.

*1 Corinthians 1:21* | I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

*Acts 18:2* And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla.

*Acts 18:18* Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila.

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

*Rom 16:3* Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.

*1 Cor 16:19* The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

*2 Tim 4:19* Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

### THE CHARACTER OF HIS PEOPLE

Characteristics of Aquila and Priscilla

#### 1. *Steadfast and Faithful*

They had wonderful, rich character.

#### 2. *Willing to serve others*

They had a church in their house. They were willing to teach Apollos. They wanted to help him understand the doctrine of Christ more clearly and fully.

#### 3. *Evangelists*

Everywhere they went they were telling people about God's way of salvation through Christ.

#### 4. *Knowledgeable of the Truth of the Word of God*

They didn't just read the word, the word would read them. They knew not just the doctrine but how to apply it in their lives and walk in the word.

#### 5. *Teachers*

Everywhere with everyone, they were pointing people to a closer walk with God. They were willing to get involved in people's lives. (Story of the little baby who was diagnosed with "failure to thrive." Through the prayers of the little children in life group and the adults, as well as prayers around the world, they baby was healed!).

#### 6. *They worked a trade or business*

They used their job as a mission field. Paul at times would work a trade at times.

## 7. *Ran a house ministry*

They had a church in their house.

### **THE HEART OF HIS PEOPLE**

God has men and women among us that are Aquilas and Priscillas. God has put in your heart desires in His service. Look at the heart of those who have the Spirit of God.

- Psalm 37:4 – Trust in the Lord-He gives you the desires of your heart
- Ezek. 36:26 – He puts His spirit within us and gives us a tender heart
- John 15:16 – He has called us to bear fruit
- 2 Cor. 2:15 - You are a fragrance of Christ
- 2 Cor 3:3 - You are a letter of Christ
- 2 Cor 3:18 - You shine the glory of the Lord

### **GOD'S SUPPLY FOR HIS PEOPLE**

God has and will give you supply for what He wants you to do among us.

- Phil. 4:19 – And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
  - Heb. 13:21 – Jesus equip you in every good thing to do His will
  - The elders and pastors cannot do everything. Acts 6:1
  - The elders are to provide a 'spiritual covering' and a base of operations for what God wants you to do.
  - Heb. 13:17 – They keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.
- Good leaders – prosperity to people, Bad leaders –bad things happen to those they lead

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## **3. GOD'S PROVISION IN HIS WORK**

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Every believer has a gift they should be exercising that gift(s) (Eph 4:11-12).

### **SPECIFIC MINISTRIES OF LIVING HOPE**

- For help, assisting, counselling, healing or teaching ministries which are distinctly evangelistic the Elders will offer review, recognition, commissioning, and support.
- Bible Study outreach
- Aide to specific groups –PTSD, Drugs, Prison, Legal aid, etc.
- Sozo ("Life" Ministry)–Women's prayer and counseling
- Pantry
- Prayer and Fasting
- Chaplaincy to specific outreaches
- School outreach clubs

### **UNDER THE MINISTRY OF AQUILA & PRICILLA UMBRELLA**

- Identify teams or groups that wish to do this.
- Clearly help identify and review their goals and processes
- Examine those individuals with respect to calling, gifting, theology and qualifications
- Include them on our website if necessary or desirable
- Commission them to the work
- Receive regular reports and give spiritual counsel and aid to the ministry as necessary

