



“Enduring Resolve”

¹⁸After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. ¹⁹And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. ²¹But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus."

Enduring spiritual growth exhibits a shift from being **fragmented** to being focused. (see Acts 16:6-10 ESV)

²⁴Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, ²⁸for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus."

Enduring spiritual growth exhibits a shift from being spiritually **naïve** to being wise. (see Acts 19:10 ESV)

Better Days series / week 12

Pastor Doug Melder

July 30-31 2011

⁴¹And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ²And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷There were about twelve men in all."

When our resolve is wavering it's usually because we are **restricted** in our **affections**. It's only through a re-ordering of our affections that we discover an enduring resolve and gain our lives. (see Rev. 2:2-7; 2 Cor. 6:4-12; Luke 21:12-19; Rom. 5:3-5; 12:11; Heb. 10:36-39)

Small Group Questions

- The sermon talked about two shifts that exhibit an enduring spiritual growth in our lives; 1) from being fragmented to being focused, and 2) from being spiritually naïve to being wise.
 - Read Acts 18:18-19:20. How do you see different characters in the story either make these shifts or fail to do so? Make sure to pay attention to some people not discussed in the sermon.
 - Rate how well you're doing at each shift. Why did you give yourself that rating?
 - What would it look like for you to make this shift in actions or thinking?
- In Acts 18:25 it says that Apollos was fervent in the Spirit which literally means he was boiling hot. Would you describe your spiritual life as boiling hot? Why or why not?
- At times in our lives, our fire needs to be turned back up. Read Revelation 2:2-7, Jesus' warning to the church of Ephesus. How does it relate to the ideas we've been talking about? What does Jesus tell us deserves our focus?
- We talked about endurance and much of the language was pulled from the following Scriptures. Read them and make a list of things that you learn about endurance. (2 Cor. 6:4-12; Luke 21:12-19; Rom. 5:3-5; 12:11; Heb. 10:36-39)