



PAUL'S STRATEGY

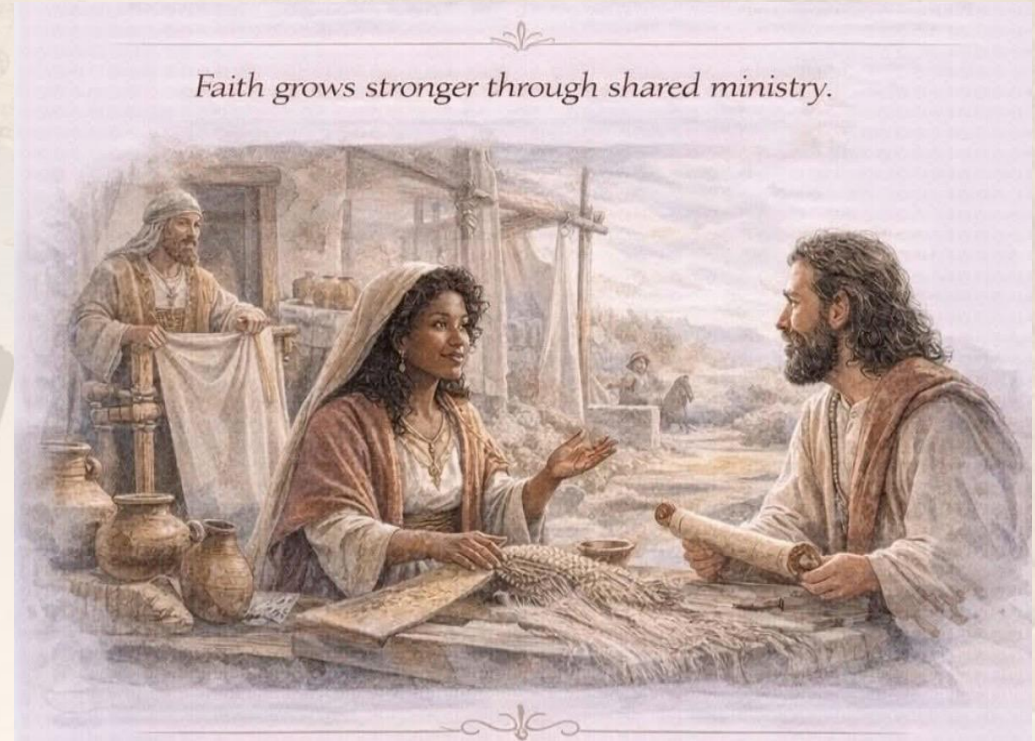
IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Date: 16 August 2026 | Passage: Acts 18-19
Theme: The Holy Spirit in building the Kingdom of God

18:1-28

PAUL'S STRATEGY

IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL



INTRODUCTION

The Spirit empowers ordinary, faithful people
- Acts 18-19: A case study in unstoppable
gospel advance

Paul witnesses to 3 groups:

1. Jews in the Synagogue
2. Gentiles in the Marketplace
3. Those in Idolatry & Darkness

The Word spreads through:

Faithful witnesses +
Spirit-empowered ministry +
God's sovereign presence

Acts 18

1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

2-4 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

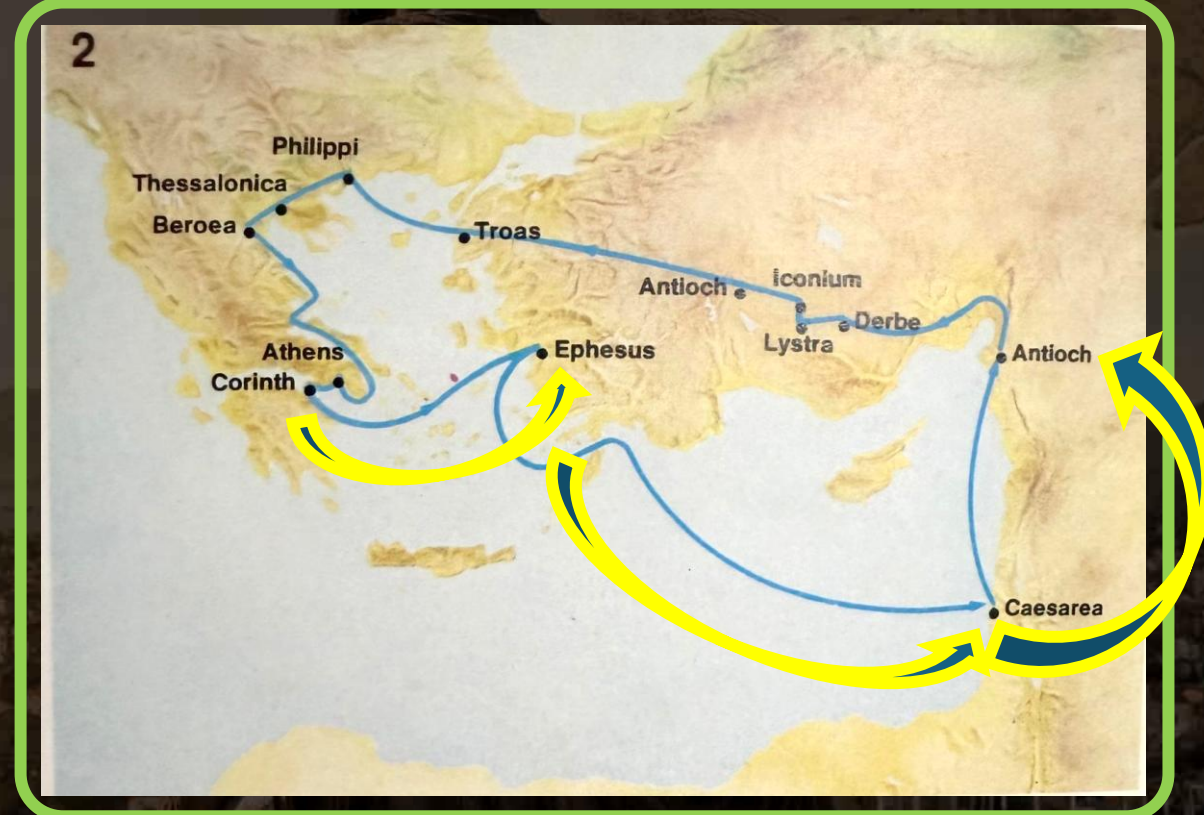
5-6 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."
7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshipper of God.

11 So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila...

19 They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

21-22 ... Then he set sail from Ephesus. When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.



1. THE HOLY SPIRIT STRENGTHENS US FOR FAITHFUL WITNESS

START WHERE PEOPLE ARE - CORINTH

Paul: tentmaker with Aquila & Priscilla (Acts 18:1-3)

- With Silas & Timothy: devoted to preaching (Acts 18:5)

Lesson: God uses everyday jobs & relationships

- Ministry was never meant to be solo



(i) JEWS IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Acts 18:4-8

Paul reasoned with them every Sabbath Acts 18:4

When opposed → went “next door” Acts 18:6-7

Lesson: Know when to pivot

Harvest: Crispus & household
believed Acts 18:8

Lesson: Be faithful. Preach
clearly. Trust God.



NOW THE LORD SAID TO
PAUL THROUGH A VISION
IN THE NIGHT, "DO NOT BE
AFRAID, BUT SPEAK AND
DO NOT BE SILENT!"
ACTS 18:9

(ii) GENTILES IN THE MARKETPLACE Acts 18:9-17

- Stayed 18 months teaching Acts 18:11
 - He laid a biblical foundation in a broken city
- Fruit: Phoebe, Gaius, Stephanas, Chloe... & many more

The Spirit strengthens us to keep speaking

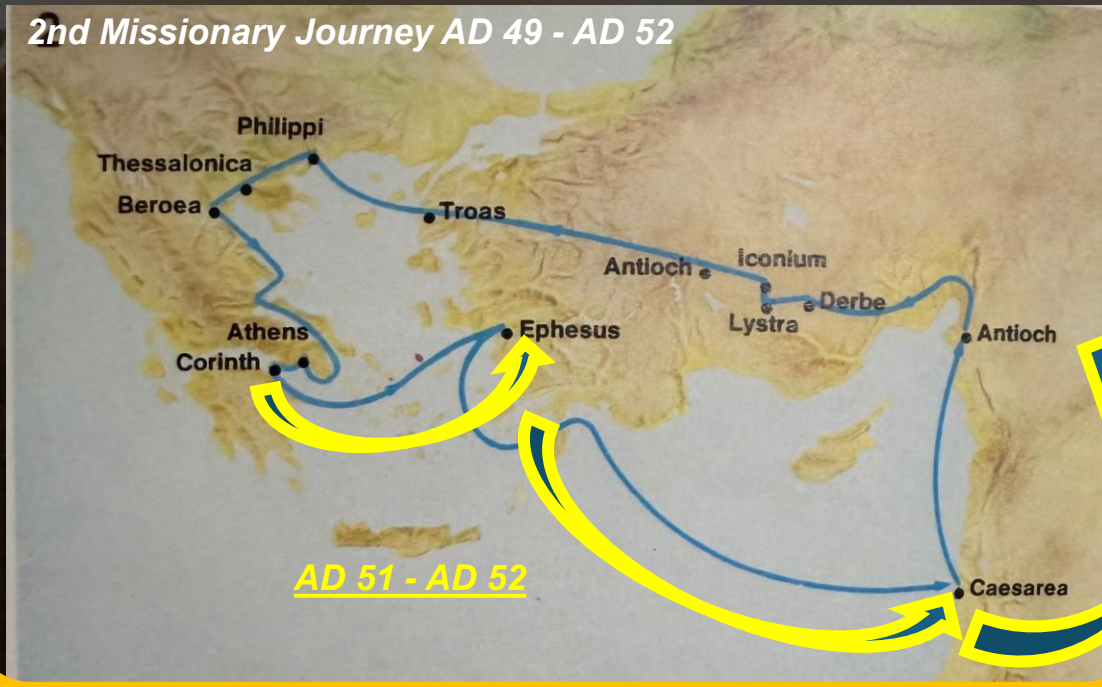
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2nd Missionary Journey AD 49 - AD 52



Acts 18

23 After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and travelled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Acts 19

1... Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples

3rd Missionary Journey AD 53 - AD 56



Acts 18

23 After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and travelled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Acts 19

1... Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples
2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.



(iii) PEOPLE IN IDOLATRY Acts 19:11-20

Ephesus: magic & Artemis worship

“God did extraordinary miracles through Paul” Acts 19:11

Scrolls burned: 50,000 drachmas Acts 19:19

Riot when idol trade threatened Acts 19:23-27

Lessons:

- Where the gospel goes, idols fall
- Depend on Word + Spirit's power
- Paul prayed, and God moved.
- Call for repentance that costs something

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPANDS THE CHURCH THROUGH DISCIPLE-MAKING

(a) CHAIN: PAUL → PRISCILLA/AQUILA → APOLLOS → Others
Apollos: eloquent but incomplete Acts 18:24-25
“Explained the way of God more adequately” Acts 18:26
Became “a great help to those who believed” Acts 18:27

- The chain of discipleship was established and continued on:

Paul → Priscilla/Aquila → Apollos → others

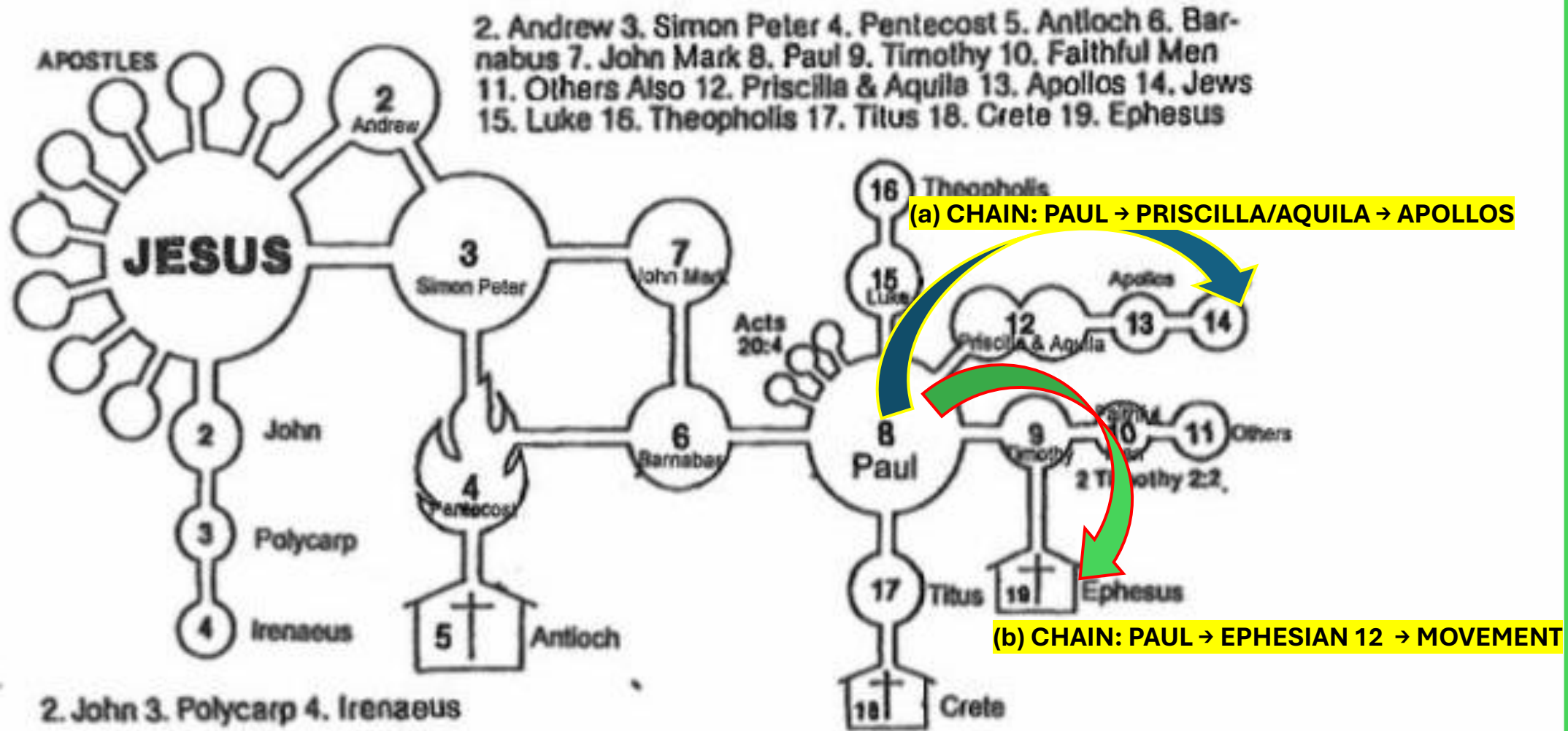
2. THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPANDS THE CHURCH THROUGH DISCIPLE-MAKING

(b) CHAIN: PAUL → EPHESIAN 12 Acts 19:1-7
“Did you receive the Holy Spirit?” Acts 19:2
Taught, prayed, laid hands Acts 19:6

- The chain of discipleship was established and continued on:

Result: From 12 disciples to a movement

CHAIN OF DISCIPLESHIP



Source: *Multiplying Disciples* pg 38 by Waylon B. Moore.

(c) BC CORE VALUE

REPRODUCE DISCIPLES

“I reproduce disciples who follow Jesus”

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” 1 Cor 11:1

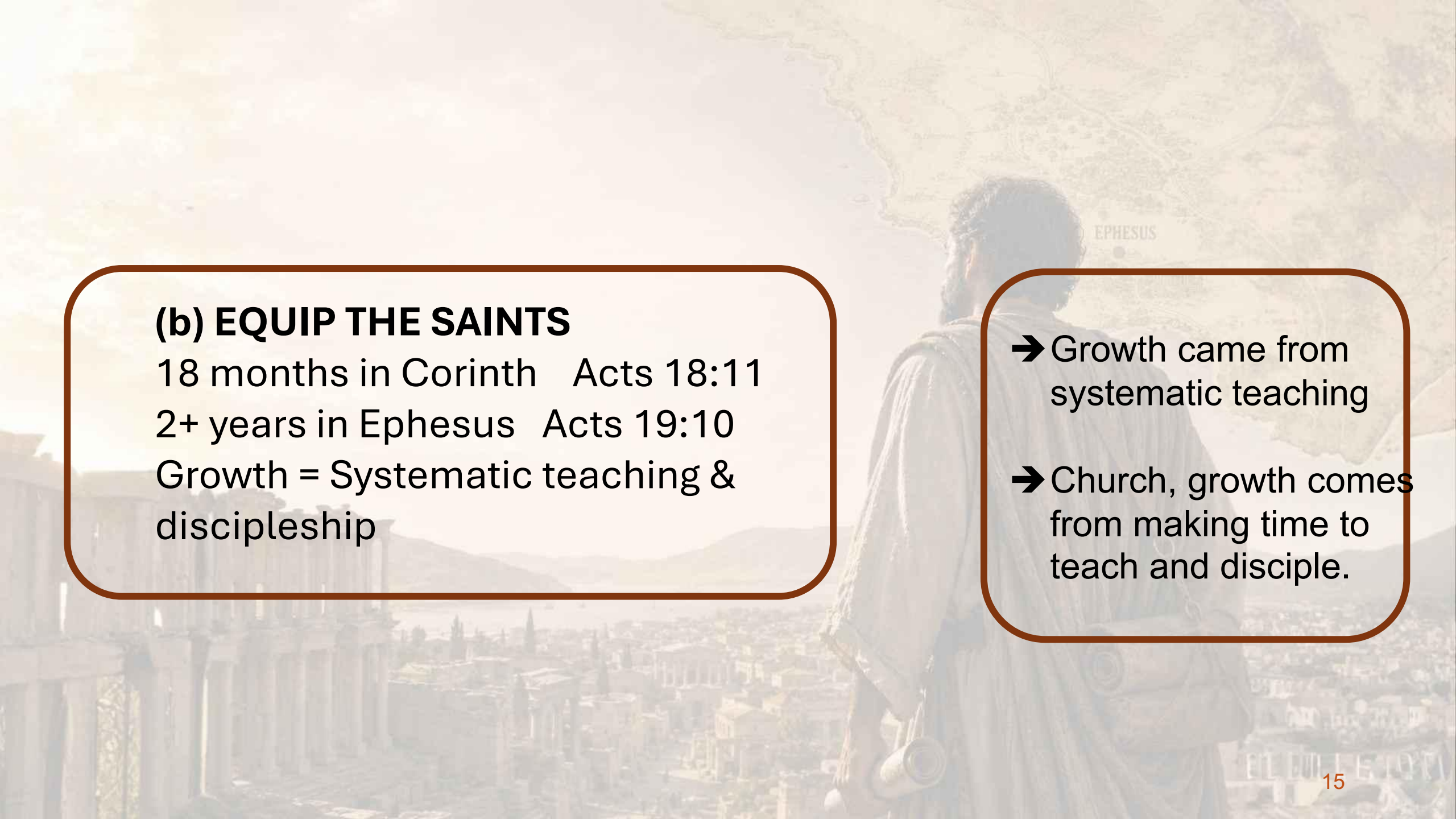
3 STRATEGIES TO KEEP PREACHING. Acts 18-19

(a) **ADAPT YOUR METHOD,
NOT YOUR MESSAGE**

Same Gospel...

Different Doorway

- (i) People who claim to know the bible but resistant to follow Christ:
→ Scripture reasoning
- (ii) Open seekers → Teach, laying biblical foundation
- (iii) Those bound by false worship/false worship/spiritualism
→ Power encounters & public repentance

The background of the slide features a faded image of a man in a long, light-colored robe, seen from the back and slightly to the side. He is holding a scroll or map. In the background, there is a map of the region of Ephesus, with the word 'EPHESUS' visible. The overall scene is set against a backdrop of ancient ruins and a hazy landscape.

(b) EQUIP THE SAINTS

18 months in Corinth Acts 18:11

2+ years in Ephesus Acts 19:10

Growth = Systematic teaching & discipleship

- ➔ Growth came from systematic teaching
- ➔ Church, growth comes from making time to teach and disciple.

(c) FIND YOUR 'TYRANNUS HALL' Acts 19:8-10

From synagogue → Lecture Hall of Tyrannus
“Every day for 2 years” → _“all Asia heard”

Your 'Tyrannus Hall': *Coffee shop, classroom, office, WhatsApp*

Vision: *“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking” Acts 18:9*

Result: *“The word... spread widely and grew in power” Acts 19:20*

Application

Small Group Discussion

1. Identify your field: Which group are you reaching?

- People with Bible background but don't know the Author
- Open seekers
- People bound by false worship, addiction, or darkness

2. How will you strategize witnessing to them?

3. Who can you disciple like Priscilla & Aquila?