

## The Story of Aquila & Priscilla

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**A**quila and Priscilla were a married couple that we read about all through the letters of Paul. They lived in several cities. Everywhere they went they were faithful to the Lord.

**Fleeing Rome:** When we first meet them, Aquila and Priscilla had just left Rome. According to Acts 18:2, the Roman emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from the city of Rome. Aquila and Priscilla, fled to Corinth.

We do not know for certain whether Priscilla was Jewish or Roman since only the husband Aquila is called a Jew. Some believe she may have been Roman since her name was a common aristocratic Roman name.

Regardless, they left *together*. They seemed to be always together. One's name never appears in the scriptures without the other. They even worked together as tentmakers (Acts 18:3). How important it is for a couple to be together; Got made marriage to provide companionship.

**Next in Corinth:** Acts 18:2a tells of Paul meeting Aquila and Priscilla when he arrived in Corinth. *“There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla.”* Paul was also a tentmaker, and when he met this couple, v.3 says *“Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.”*

Think of your co-workers. Can you imagine what it would have been like to have the apostle Paul stay and work with you? Imagine the wonderful conversations they must have had about the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can imagine how encouraging that would have been. The apostle Paul stayed a year and a half in Corinth, teaching the word of God among them. (Acts 18:11) Think of it, eighteen months of teaching by the apostle Paul. How Aquila and Priscilla must have grown in their faith!

**Then to Ephesus:** Their later actions demonstrate how thoroughly Aquila and Priscilla had learned and applied God's Word. When Paul left Corinth, he went to Ephesus, and they went with him. (Acts 18:18) Paul left them there, (v 19) and went on to Jerusalem and then to Antioch (v 22). Then starting in verse 24, it says, *“Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak 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”* (Acts 18:24-26).

Apollos accepted the truth. As a result of this meeting with Aquila and Priscilla, he became an effective servant of God. In the next two verses it says that Apollos went to Achaia and proved *“from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.”* Some of us will never be powerful preachers, but we can be faithful students and private teachers of the Word like Aquila and Priscilla.

Encourage young people to choose a mate who will want to serve with them as a student and teacher of God's word.

When Paul returned to Ephesus on his third missionary journey, he remained there teaching for approximately three years (Acts 19). While he was there in Ephesus, he wrote his first letter to the Corinthians saying, "*The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house*" (I Cor 16:19). They used their home in Ephesus for a meeting place for the church. This will not be the last time that they used their home for that purpose. Do you, as husband and wife, use your resources in service to God?

While we have church buildings today, there is no substitute for the home as a place to help others. The possibilities for using our homes to serve the Lord are many. For example, young people benefit by adults who open their homes to them for bible classes or recreation. People of all ages are encouraged by a visit in the homes of Christians. What a blessing it is to us when we use our home in the service of God.

**Back in Rome:** Aquila and Priscilla returned to Rome. We know this because in Paul's epistle to the Romans, he said, "*Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow-workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; Also greet the church that is in their house*" (Rom 16:3-5) Churches in New Testament times often met in homes, and once again, the home of Aquila and Priscilla was open for that purpose.

Did you notice what Paul said that Aquila and Priscilla had done for him? "*Who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks...*" "*Risked their necks*" means that they put their own lives in jeopardy to save Paul. We do not know exactly when or how they did this. Jesus had said, "*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13).

This godly couple was willing to give everything in the service of the Savior, even their lives. Do you believe that they were made stronger because they had the support of each other? Think of how having a godly husband or wife can strengthen. Read. Ecc 4:9-10. Discuss with your mate how you can help strengthen each other, especially when times are hard.

**Back in Ephesus:** Aquila and Priscilla are mentioned one more time in the New Testament, in the last chapter of the last book that the Apostle Paul wrote. Paul was in a Roman prison. His death at the hands of the emperor Nero was at hand, and these were his last words before he died. "*Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus*" (2 Tim 4:19).

Paul was thinking of his dear friends who were then back in Ephesus where Timothy was working. They possibly had left Rome to escape Nero's latest persecution against Christians. It was just a brief and simple greeting, but how precious the greeting must have been to them.

May we all strive to live like this godly couple that served the Lord "two-gether".

