

Scripture-by-Stanza Unpacking — Wisdom from Apollos

Stanza 1

*I once believed my learning strong,
My voice refined, my teaching long.
The Scriptures burned within my soul,
Yet truth still had a deeper goal.*

Apollos was already gifted before God refined him further. Acts 18:24 describes him as “an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.” He possessed knowledge, passion, and ability. Yet despite his sincere devotion, there were still areas where his understanding was incomplete.

This stanza reminds us that spiritual passion alone does not mean spiritual completion. God often deepens the understanding of those who remain humble enough to keep learning.

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning.” — Proverbs 1:5

Stanza 2

*I spoke with zeal in every place,
With passion, fire, and measured pace.
But God, in kindness, let me see
That wisdom still was shaping me.*

Acts 18:25 says Apollos was “fervent in spirit” and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he only knew the baptism of John. His zeal was genuine. God did not reject his sincerity—but lovingly continued shaping him.

Measured teachability recognizes that growth is not condemnation. It is grace. God’s correction is often evidence of His kindness and commitment to our formation.

“For the Lord disciplines the one He loves.” — Hebrews 12:6

Stanza 3

*Then Priscilla and Aquila came,
Not seeking pride, applause, or fame.
They pulled me close with patient care,
And taught me truths still waiting there.*

Priscilla and Aquila modeled godly correction. Acts 18:26 says they “took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

They did not humiliate Apollos publicly. Their correction was personal, gentle, and rooted in love for truth. Likewise, Apollos did not resist them. Healthy spiritual formation often happens through humble conversations with faithful believers.

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend.” — Proverbs 27:6

Stanza 4

*I could have guarded what I knew,
Defended every narrow view.
But hearts that bow before God's light
Will gladly trade pride's grip for sight.*

This stanza captures the crossroads of teachability. Apollos could have become defensive. He was already respected and influential. Pride could have protected reputation instead of pursuing truth.

Measured teachability requires surrender. It means valuing truth more than personal image. Humility opens the door for God to replace limited understanding with clearer spiritual sight.

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” — James 4:6

Stanza 5

*For leaders hardened by their name
May keep their praise yet lose their flame.
But those who stay both soft and wise
Find greater strength through humbled eyes.*

Leadership becomes dangerous when influence replaces dependence on God. Some leaders preserve reputation while slowly losing spiritual sensitivity.

Apollos remained useful because success did not harden him. Teachable leaders stay soft before God. They continue learning, listening, and growing long after others begin praising them.

“Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.” — Proverbs 15:32

Stanza 6

*So let your spirit stay awake,
Let truth refine you for His sake.
For God still shapes the hearts that yield,
And teachable souls become His field.*

The closing stanza becomes both invitation and warning. God continually forms those who remain yielded to Him. Measured teachability is not passive—it is active surrender to God’s refining work.

Apollos became even more powerful in ministry after receiving instruction. Acts 18:28 says he “powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.”

God does not diminish teachable people.
He enlarges their usefulness.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.” — Psalm 86:11