

Title: **We Can't Do This Alone**
Text: **Acts 18:18-19:7**
Date: **October 26, 2025**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

At the very core of our identity as the church, as disciples of Jesus, we are to be a community of fellow-learners—people committed to learning from one another about him and helping others learn about him as well.

Disciple: Gk. mathētēs = "one who engages in learning through instruction from another"—i.e. an apprentice, a pupil, a student, a learner.

1. We Have to Want It

"One day a young man came to visit [Spurgeon] and said to [him], 'I can be a Christian without the church; I don't need others.' They were sitting in the lounge by an open fire and Spurgeon picked up some tongs, took a coal from the blazing fire and placed it on the hearth. They continued talking and after a while, Spurgeon said, 'Look down at the hearth. What happened to the coal I took out of the fire?' The young man answered, 'Well, it's become black. It's lost its heat and its flame.' Spurgeon replied, 'Young man, that's why you need to be part of the church, because it is only together we are stimulated and together that we grow. But like this coal taken out of the fire, on its own it dies out. But in the heat of the fire all the other coals are stimulating it to go on glowing and give off heat.'"

Barrier #1: Busy Schedules

Barrier #2: Imbibed Individualism

Barrier #3: Lingering Hurts - Getting hurt or letdown by others in the church—as hard as it is—it is not ultimately a hindrance to discipleship but an important part of it.

2. We Have to Receive It

The move here for Apollos is from "accurately" (v. 25) to "more accurately" (v. 26). Sometimes discipleship is going to be a journey from complete ignorance to a growing knowledge; in this case, it was a journey from some knowledge to more; but, whatever the case, the thing we must see is that, with discipleship, it will always be a *journey*.

Barrier #1: "Second-Choice" People - God loves to use "second-choice" people. Don't overlook them!

Barrier #2: Inconvenient Truths - Discipleship to Jesus means you're on a "collision-course" with truth. You should expect some whiplash.

Barrier #3: Spiritual "Maturity" - Don't let your spiritual "maturity" fool you into thinking you can minister to others but you don't need others ministering to you.

3. We Have to Give It

You don't just take in and take in and never give. It doesn't matter how little it is, you're being given something by God and he wants you to give it away to others.

Barrier #1: False Humility - "Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God . . ." (2 Cor. 3:4-5). False humility freezes on that first part and focuses on me. It stops there. "I am not sufficient in myself." True humility carries on with Paul to the second part. "I may not be sufficient . . . but he is." Get in the game. God gives to you to give to others!

So what can you do? Four quick things:

First, show up on Sundays. Second, consider checking out a Home Group and plug in. Third, consider joining or starting a DNA Group. Fourth, fill out a Connection Card and let us know how we can help!



Reflection Questions

- Look back at the three main points from this morning's sermon. Which of the barriers highlighted seem like barriers to you personally? Why? What can you do to break through?
- What would it look like to pursue discipleship this week?

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CONNECTION CARD

Give online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

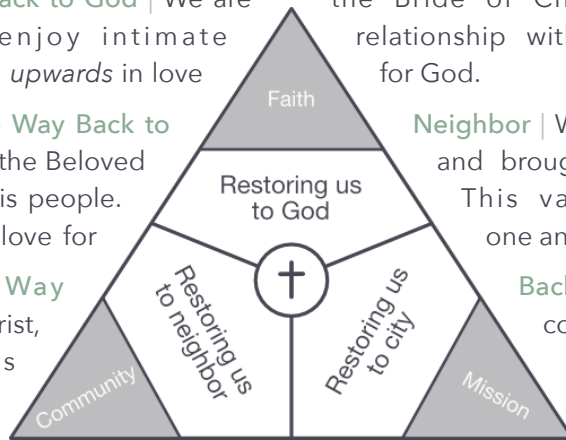
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Upcoming Perspectives Class

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is coming in January 2026. Are you familiar with Perspectives? It is a part of the world Christian movement and has changed lives. It draws us closer to God and helps us engage with God's work as we look at God's biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic perspectives. There are 15 different instructors each week, readings, prayer, worship, activities, fellowship and community. There is nothing quite like it. Check it out at perspectives.org.

Find info about the Cupertino class by scanning the QR code below.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Durstenfeld at beckydurstenfeld@gmail.com.

All Church Hangout - Next Week!

Philippines Missions Trip - Two Ways to Support!

Scan the QR code below for more info!

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Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.