

PRC Community Groups

Providence Road Church



Sermon Series: To the Ends of the Earth

Message: True Gospel Transformation Only Possible in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Passage: Acts 19:1-7

Date Preached: April 28th, 2013

Going Deeper

1. Why do you believe Paul would ask the disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed? Why was that a relevant question?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in salvation? How does he change the life of the new believer? Give some passages from the Scripture as evidences. *[John 3, the story of Jesus and Nicodemus. 1 John gives us marks of true disciples: Obedience, Belief and Love. See sermon notes]*
3. What is the Baptism of John? What was its purpose and message? [It is important to note that the baptism of John was prior to the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost. Therefore it was during the time of the Old Covenant. Its purpose was exclusively as a sign of repentance and preparation for the Messiah to come.]
4. Although these disciples were baptized into John's baptism, why is it astonishing that they would not have even heard of the Holy Spirit? *[John the Baptist's message proclaimed the coming of the Holy Spirit. Read Matthew 3:11]*
5. What portion of the gospel message were these men missing? Why is the complete gospel message necessary for genuine salvation?
6. Discuss verse 6? Why would Paul lay hands on them in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit? Why is that not the norm even among the thousands who have believed during his first two missionary journeys? Why was the receiving of the Holy Spirit accompanied by speaking in tongues and prophesying? *[This event becomes a unique moment in time with great significance. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came upon the Jews. In Acts 8, the Holy Spirit came upon the Samaritans. In Acts 10, the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles. And, in Acts 19 the Holy Spirit would come upon those who had believed during the Old Covenant - Old Testament saints. It was a sign of fellowship and inclusion of all remaining people groups. See John MacArthur Commentary below]*

Application

1. How do you feel knowing there are likely people you know that say they are Christian but are probably not? What are you doing to help them see their need of repentance?

2. After becoming a Christian and having receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, how has your life changed? Share a personal story.
3. Read and discuss Romans 10:9-15. Does that verse motivate you to share your faith with others? Why or why not?
4. Continue to pray for that “one person” you are striving to win for Christ.
5. Continue to pray for our missions efforts. Nicaragua, Cuba, Central Asia, and Egypt.

The light of truth dawned in their hearts **when they heard** Paul's teaching, and **they were baptized** in water **in the name of the Lord Jesus**, signifying their spiritual union with Him by faith. Immediately, in a gesture of apostolic affirmation, **Paul laid his hands upon them**. Some of the apostles had been present at each new phase of the church (Acts 2, 8, 10) so that they would be authoritative witnesses to the reality that all who believed in Jesus Christ were one in Him. I. Howard Marshall notes that

laying on of hands should be understood as a special act of fellowship, incorporating the people concerned into the fellowship of the church. This was necessary in the case of the Samaritan converts in chapter 8 to make it quite clear that they were accepted fully into the Jewish church centred on Jerusalem; and it was necessary in the present instance to make it clear to these members of a semi-Christian group that they were now becoming part of the universal church. (*The Acts of the Apostles* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992], 308)

As Paul made this gesture, **the Holy Spirit came upon them** and, as had others before them (cf. 2:1–4; 8:14–17), **they began speaking with tongues and prophesying**. That was a further indication that they were now a part of the one true church (cf. 11:15, 17). And since they had not even heard that the Spirit had come, they needed tangible proof that He had indeed come into their lives.

These **twelve men**, like Paul and Apollos before them, illustrate the transitional nature of Acts. The church, which had embraced Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans, now gathered in the last group: Old Testament saints. And the same miraculous gifts were present, so that all would know what was said of the Gentiles in Acts 11:17–18:

If God therefore gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way? And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

So all the groups were gathered in. And in each case apostles were present to verify that all received the same Holy Spirit in the same way. That having been completed, Paul could write to the Ephesians, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:4–5). From then on, the Holy Spirit would come to every heart at salvation, as the epistles teach.

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¹ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1994). *Acts*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary (326). Chicago: Moody Press.