

The Spirit in Our Lives

Acts 19:1-10

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And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.”

Acts 19:1-10, cont.

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.

Acts 19:1-10, cont.

But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

This event happened after ...

- **The Public Ministry of John the Baptist**
- **The Public Ministry of Christ**
- **The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ**
- **The coming of the Holy Spirit: “For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5).**
- **The early expansion of the Church**

This event happened before ...

- **The writing of the New Testament: Gospels, Epistles, Acts, Revelation**
- **The end of the “Age of the Apostles”**
- **“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 18:18).**
- **“The things that mark an apostle – signs, wonders and miracles – were done among you with great perseverance” (2 Cor. 12:12).**

What do we learn here about the Spirit in our lives today?

- **How the Spirit is received**
- **The Incomplete ministry of John the Baptist**
- **The marks of a Christian, a follower of Christ**

1. How the Spirit is received:

- **The traits of the Spirit in the lives of believers in Luke**
- **God initiates the experience – He sent the Christ**
- **The Spirit creates a new person within us – “The Holy Spirit will come upon you” (Luke 1:35). “The Spirit brings life” (2 Cor. 3:6). Convicts us of sin. (Luke 3:16)**
- **The Spirit speaks to us and leads us – Simeon (Luke 2:26-27)**
- **The Spirit empowers us – John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)**

How the Spirit is received:

- Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
- “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory” (Eph. 1:13-14).

When is the Spirit received?

- **At salvation: “And he who does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9)**
- **“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)**
- **There are many fillings of the Spirit, but only one sealing and one baptism.**

The Spirit Sets us Free!

- **“Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:2). “The mind of the Spirit is life and peace” (Rom. 8:6).**
- **“He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-- not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Cor. 3:6).**
- **“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you” (Romans 8:11)**

2. The Incomplete Ministry of John

- **John was a great man: “Jesus said: “I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28).**
- **John was not complete in himself: “There came a man who was sent from God. His name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through him everyone might believe. He himself was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light” (John 1:6-8).**

John did not...

- John did not die for the sins of the world. John did not rise from the dead.
- John was not “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).
- He was not the Resurrection and the Life. He was not the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- He was not the One who come to us by His Spirit.
- He will not sit on the throne of God.

These twelve men...

- Disciples of John who did not know the whole story about Jesus.
- They were devout and sincere, but not well-taught. They said that they had not even heard that there was a Holy Spirit, (Genesis 1:2).
- They had received the baptism of repentance. John's baptism symbolized the washing away of their sins. It was to be done in preparation of the coming of the Messiah. Christian baptism symbolizes also the receiving of a new life.

3. The Marks of a Christ-follower, a Believer

- A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus. Paul preached to them the gospel about Jesus.**
- A Christian is someone who is marked by baptism.**
- A Christian is someone who identifies with the teachings of the apostles, the Bible, the Old and New Testaments.**
- A Christian is someone who has experienced a new birth by the Holy Spirit, and the spiritual gift God has determined he should receive, and has begun to serve the Lord.**
- A Christian is someone who publicly testifies to his faith in the Lord Jesus.**