

## **DID YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

### **Acts 18:23-19:7**

Common questions Christians are often asked: [I used to hear these more than today]

Does your church believe in the Holy Spirit?

Have you received the Holy Spirit?

Have you been baptized by the Holy Spirit?

This isn't a new question!

Paul asked it in Acts 19.

Is he asking them the same thing that people are asking us today when they ask?

What IS Paul asking them? Why?

*What is the purpose and message of Acts?*

*What main events affect the development of the early church up to this moment?*

## **TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28**

As a result of God's plan to accept Gentiles into the new people of God, when they spread around the world by persecution, they preach the gospel everywhere.

This movement leads to the missionary journeys to new frontiers.

Paul is one of the main participants in the spread of the gospel to these new areas (13:1-28:31).

## **FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY 13-14**

First journey is by Paul and Barnabas to nearby islands and Asia Minor

A pattern is established of rejection by the Jews and acceptance by Gentiles.

## **COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM 15:1-35**

Clarifies HOW pagan Gentile people can be saved: by faith in Christ.

## **SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY 15:36-18:22**

Now on more pagan turf.

Same pattern of Jewish vs. Gentile response extended.

## **THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY 18:23-21:16**

After Paul spends time in Antioch, he leaves on a 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey.

Main purpose: Strengthen churches which are already established.

## **MINISTRY IN GALATIA AND PHRYGIA 18:23**

## **MINISTRY IN EPHEBUS 18:24-19:41**

Special attention is directed on this trip to the work in Ephesus.

### **Instruction of Apollos 18:24-28**

Apollos is preaching in Ephesus. 24

*Evaluate the ministry of Apollos previous to his encounter with Aquila and Priscilla?*

*What would his message have been?*

*What would they have taught him?*

He's eloquent and has a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.

He diligently teaches the things of the Lord. 25-26a

But he only knows John's baptism.

John's disciples are preaching the message of John 3. (22-36)

They're preaching that Messiah has come and that the people must repent of their sins because the kingdom is near.

They know nothing about the church nor of the events which have occurred since Acts 2.

Priscilla and Aquila take Apollos aside and explain the part of the story he still doesn't know. **26-28**

He becomes a powerful spokesman for Jesus and for the church.

*In 19:1-7 a group of John's disciples meets Paul.*

*What did they lack?*

*What does the dialogue concerning the Holy Spirit indicate?*

### **Instruction of John's disciples 19:1-7**

Apollos represents another group that needs to be incorporated into the new people of God: John's disciples. **19:1**

Luke uses Apollos to introduce the issues involved in their entrance into the church.

They have a special function in the transition period.

When their work is finished, God brings them into the church also.

Not everyone living after Acts 2 received the revelation of what happened there.

These men were disciples of John.

They had responded to his revelation.

Paul asks a test question to see where they are in the process of receiving revelation. **19:2a**

He assumes they have believed.

Their response shows that they have not yet heard that *the Holy Spirit has come*. **19:2b**

Verb can be translated in sense of to exist or to have come.

Context determines meaning.

They would have known of His *existence* from the Old Testament. Gen.1; Ps. 139; Isa. 48:16

They have not heard about His *coming* in Acts 2.

*Why are they rebaptized?*

*What was the purpose of John's baptism?*

*How did that differ from baptism in Jesus' name?*

Paul asks them what group they were identified with. **19:3**

They answer that they have been identified with John.

Paul explains the relationship between John's message and the message they have received.

**19:4**

John baptized for repentance and taught his followers to trust the Messiah, that is, Jesus.

When they hear this message, they immediately recognize its significance and choose to identify themselves with Jesus and His new program, the church. **19:5-7**

Paul lays his hands on them to show his identification with this new group and as an indication that they too have been accepted.

*Why was the sign of tongues given when this group entered the church?*

God confirms this by the external demonstration of the Holy Spirit's coming on them as He had to the rest of the church previously.

### **LESSONS FOR US**

*What was the function of Apollos and these disciples previous to this encounter?*

*Why are these two accounts developed at this point in Acts?*

*What lessons can we learn about God's people and God's program from this section?*

*Again the number of participants is small.*

*Do you see any lessons for us here?*

The Spirit has come.

Those who trust Christ receive Him. Rom. 8:9;  
John 14:16-17

Have we received Him?

Must we wait for another coming?

Unity of God's people in this age

Final group was called out and added to the church.

Now we are all one—without distinction—in Christ.  
Completion of the transition.

John and his followers were God's instruments through the transition.

Now they cease to exist as a separate part of God's program.

They too are incorporated into the church.

All those who seek to do God's will become part of His new people, the church.