

Acts 18:24-19:7 Have You Received the Spirit?

Have you ever met someone – who had the right –Christian lingo – said the right things – Had knowledge – scriptural insight.

A)But the more that you talked to them – you had this thought – **I don't know what it is – but there is something missing here?**

B)Something not right! – Ever experienced that?

1)Chances are – what might have been missing is– **THIS:** though knowledgeable – that person really wasn't born again – wasn't really saved.

C)Religious but missing the very important element of **RELATIONSHIP W/ GOD!**

That is more common than we think.

A)Infact that is the story of one of the most effective preachers who has ever lived. – A man by the name of John Wesley.

B)Wesley grew up in a godly home – godly parents – Dad was a Pastor and and mom – well she was a Saint in every sense of the word.

1)Everything about Susanna Wesley gushed forth godliness

C)John was himself a Brilliant young man – attending prestigious Oxford College there in England.

Wesley chose to follow in his fathers footsteps enter the ministry.

A)After graduation – He embarked on a trip to America –

B)Georgia to be exact to try and convert the American Indians in Georgia - *but he utterly failed.*

C)Forced to return to England he wrote, “I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?” John Wesley

Upon his return to England – Wesley encountered some Christians his own age -who were different than any he had ever met before.

A)Being around them made him Question his faith.

B)He went to one of their meetings one evening and truly gave his heart to Christ – **BORN AGAIN THAT NIGHT.**

1)He said: He sensed the Lord filling him forgiving him – from that point everything changed.

C)Prior to that John Wesley, was a man who knew **more theology** and was **more dedicated** than most believers,

1)But he did not know Christ or the saving power of the Holy Spirit.

D)He was in the church but was condemned!

Well in Acts 18 we meet a man who had a similar experience:

A)Our text today deals with **religious people who have not personally experienced the reality of Jesus Christ.**

B)Danny left off in v.23 last week which was the start of Paul's 3rd missionary journey.

1)Where we left Paul in the region of Galatia where he was strengthening the Disciples

C) As we come this morning to v.24 we are introduced to another **Dynamic leader in the early Church – a man by the name of Apollos.**

24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Apollos was the kind of man who would stand out in any gathering.

A)He knew the Old Testament Scriptures—thoroughly

It says here He was mighty in the Scriptures.”

B) He was also unusually learned.

1)Alexandria, the place of his birth, rivaled Athens's reputation for knowledge. The greatest library in the world was in Alexandria. **700,000 volumes**

C)That city was the home of Euclid, Philo and other famous Philosophers.

1)The Septuagint was accomplished there.

D)So Apollos was a learned man – and he was also “an eloquent man”

1)It was said of the preaching of MLJ - **“logic on fire.”**

E)They might have said the same about Apollos

1)**Passionate: fervent in spirit.**

Today we might say of Apollos – He had the whole package – Smart, Eloquent – forceful – knew the word – engaging – charismatic –

A)The kind of guy many Churches today would look for to fill their pulpit and be their Pastor –

B)One problem – He wasn't born again yet

26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Remember Aquilla and Priscilla – Awesome couple we met in Ch. 18 – Paul went to Corinth

A) They took **Paul in he worked with them** making tents – they learned from him the word.

B) He ended up taking them to Ephesus w/ him {left

C) **This Simple husband and wife – God ended up using to reach this impressive orator Apollos**

D) **Aquilla and Priscilla** recognized some deficiencies in Apollos' understanding, **but they did not correct him in public.**

1) They lovingly took him aside - There was no scorn, criticism, or rejection. They did not embarrass him.

E) They lovingly completed his theological picture- **they explained to him the way of God more accurately.**

Result: Apollos of Alexandria at this time became born again—baptized with the Spirit.

A) This godly couple's attitude made all the difference.

B) **Apollos Though eloquent and polished, showed himself to be humble and teachable –**

1) Great lesson - The truth of Christ and life in the Spirit come to those who are humble enough to listen and to be taught.

What happened to Apollos after the reception of the life of the Spirit?

27 And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; 28 for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Apollos became an incredibly effective minister of the gospel.

A) The same thing happened to Wesley - John Wesley's conversion began a movement that historians rank with the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution as one of the great historical phenomena of the nineteenth century.

B) **Wesley's preaching may have even saved England from a revolution similar to that of France.**

C) **Both are Great stories of how God works**

Apollos' life also shows us that we can lift others only to the level on which we ourselves live.

A) Apollos—a Jew, an Alexandrian, learned, mighty in the Scriptures, fervent in spirit, bold in his preaching—

B) **could only take the people as far as he had come himself**, and not one step further.

C) Do we want people to overflow with the Holy Spirit? Then we must be full ourselves

D) Well Apollos eventually ended up back in Corinth

Dr. Luke Picks up the story with Paul arriving back in Ephesus.

A) Ephesus was a major Metropolis – A population of about 300,000 inhabitants –

B) it was the capital of the Roman Province of Asia – and Rome's most important commercial center in that region.

C) **What does Paul find there ?** A group of men that Paul presumes to be Believers – seems that something is missing in their lives. **RD V.1-7**

It is very interesting that Dr. Luke Describes them as Disciples even though as we read thru the text – we find they were not yet believers.

A) The text tells us they only knew about John the Baptist baptism –

B) Paul preaches Christ – they get saved and baptized in the Spirit on the spot –

1) Spoke with tongues and Prophesied

It is interesting that Dr. Luke Describes them as Disciples

A) The term Disciples is used 27 times in the book of Acts and the term Disciple is used 5 times – so 32 times we have people referred to as Disciples

B) In 31 of the 32 times it refers to someone who was a believer in Jesus and was following Jesus. –

C) **Or to put it another way – it referred to someone who was already saved.**

D) Acts 19 is the lone exception to the rule. – I believe that the HS inspired Dr. Luke to use this term on purpose – to make a statement –

1) To make a point

The point was this – when Paul met these 12 men he was under the impression that they were believers in Jesus – which makes the question he asked them – really intriguing

A) Did you receive the HS when you believed?

B) The fact that Paul asked the question makes it a valid question for us to answer as well.

C) What is the meaning of this question?

It is important to understand that Paul is not talking about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit here.

A) Jesus explained to His disciples in John 14 – what the ministry of the Holy Spirit would look like.

B) There he said: It is important that I go – when I go then the Spirit will come. Another Helper. {Same

1) John 14:17 **He is with you – but shall be in you.**

C) Key distinction: The Holy Spirit was with them because the Spirit was filling Jesus – returned from Wilderness – Full of the Holy Spirit.

D) The ministry of the Holy Spirit with a person: Is to draw people to Jesus by convicting them of sin. – John 16:8

1) Not saved – HS – convicting you of sin – need of a Savior – knocks on your heart.

So Jesus said the HS is with you but He shall be IN YOU!

A) That is what is meant by the indwelling of the HS! – When were the disciples indwelt with the Holy Spirit? Answer John 20:22

B) After the Cross – Jesus died to save – after the Resurrection – alive – they saw him - **Breathed on them and said – receive the Holy Spirit.**

1) It was at that moment that the Disciples were born again.

C) So **the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is what Jesus** spoke of to Nic in John 3 referred to it as being Born of the Spirit.

1) All born physically – but we need a Spiritual birth – happens when we open our hearts to Christ. –

2) We receive the Spirit.

D) Paul writes of the fact that having the Spirit in you is a mark of being saved or born again in Romans 8:8-11

Romans 8:8-11 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

A) Paul makes it clear here that if you are saved – you have received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

B) That is why – this question can't be referencing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – it doesn't make sense – it is a given of someone who is saved.

C)It would be like saying- Have you been breathing sense you were born!

1)Breath is the mark of physical life and the Holy Spirit is the mark of Spiritual life.

DIf Paul was at all questioning their salvation – he would have asked the question – Have you received Christ or have you embraced the gospel?

E)So the question is referencing something else!

1)What happened in the life of the disciples gives us the insight into the answer

Well after the Disciples were indwelt with the HS in John 20:22 –Jesus told them to go into Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them.

Acts 1:4-6 “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

A)Three Key Baptisms of the Bible speaks of: Water Baptism is something you do to identify yourself as a follower of Christ. Immersed

B)Baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:13

1)Holy Spirit comes to live in you – Dwell in your heart – but you are placed into Jesus.

C)Then there is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – Jesus baptizes you with the Holy Spirit.

1)Matthew 3:11 – John said Holy Spirit.

D)Jesus describes what that looks like in Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Notice the word upon – new word in connection with the Holy Spirit

A)With before saved – In –after saved – Upon – empowered for service and for living the Christian life.

B)Description – Filled to overflowing – glass – half full Not so only you getting more – but HS getting more of you– getting more of the glass

C)Wind in a Sail! { More of the Sail

1)Empowered – moved

D)Here is what we have seen so far about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts – no formula or pattern.

Acts 2 Apostles – after conversion {happened when they were praying and they spoke in tongues.

Acts 8:14-18 believers in Samaria – **after conversion**, Holy Spirit was imparted by the laying on of hands – there was no mention of speaking in tongues.

Paul's own life – Acts 9:17-18 – After his conversion – converted on the road to Damascus – Believed – **who are you Lord**.

Again there is the laying on of hands but no mention of speaking in tongues.

Acts 10:44-46 – House of Cornelius { **happens at the moment of conversion** – they were listening to Peter preach about Christ – they believed, the Holy Spirit fell upon them and they began to speak in tongues.

That is why Paul asked the question: There wasn't a specific pattern established in the life of the Church.

A) Paul just seemed to notice that it seemed like there was something missing in these guys life.

B) He is wondering – Have you guys been baptized in the HS yet?

C) **Man pumping the well** – The water was pumping the man!

1) Many Christians live thinking – they do the Pumping!

Two men visit Nagra falls – greatest unused power in the Universe

A) No the HS in the life of the Church is the greatest unused power in the universe.

Church today is so enemy –

A) Compare the early Church with the present day Church there is no comparison. – They turned their world upside down.

B) **They had so little:** Little resources, little education, little gifting, Peter wasn't a trained orator – but they were dependant on the Spirit of God.

1) Churches problem today – WE DON'T!

C) Tozer “You could remove the Holy Spirit from the Church today and more than half of the Church wouldn't know He was gone.”

Today we have mega resources, technology, great emphasis on skilled creative and crafty preaching { conferences / Great music

A) And yet the church is barely making a dent. – Why?

B) The Churches confidence is in the wrong thing – **Forgotten God**

C) **Monday morning Practice for many a Church** – sit down and dissect the service – what could we do better – what worked – what didn't?

1) very little prayer!

D) Don't get me wrong – I believe that we in the Church strive for excellence in everything that we do.

1) But more than excellence of performance we need the Power of the HS

One last thought before we wrap this up! – Bring this home. Make this personal

A) When we think of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – we usually think of the day of Pentecost – powerful preaching, evangelism and ministry.

B) This is why I think a lot of believers today – go about their day – without calling on the Lord's help – not in the ministry! – Misnomer

1) We are all in the ministry – all called to be witnesses

C) But the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for more than just Ministry.

1) Turn to Ephesians 5

Context of the Chapter is Christian walk – daily living – launches into Married life – parent life – work life.

– Start reading in v.15

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. { Theme of Section – Our walk – walking in Wisdom –\}

Circumspect comes from the same root word as the word Circumference = Round or Balanced.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. { Transition into talking about marriage and Family – Know God's will

Here is the key 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

A) Don't be drunk – see that is how the world deals with their stress – deals with life – escape

B) Find relief in a bottle – { anything – porn –

1) Affair

C) A hobby – video games –

Presenting a contrast – NOT YOU – BE FILLED

This is a command not a suggestion.

Lit Be continually being filled –

A) This is what this means – this really is the key to the Christian life.

B) You need the daily help of Jesus – to be what He has called you to be – do what He has called you to do as a Christian, as wife, husband, parent, a worker

C) Life is about daily calling on His help – Lord fill me afresh today with your Spirit.

Poor in Spirit – Realizing your utter dependency ...

We wrestle with that because it is so foreign to our way of thinking as Americans

A) We get ahead by trying harder – doing more

B) Try harder to make a Stand – ok for a while – then we fail.

C) Read a marriage book – try harder to be a better spouse – We battle our flesh

The answer is not in trying harder – it is in admitting you are weak – admitting you need help.

A) Learning to live a life – dependant on the HS

B) The more that you make that your prayer – the more Jesus will empower you.

1) The more you will find yourself being sensitive to the leading of His Spirit in your life.

C) Walking in the Spirit.

Close today: Some of you need to answer the question: Have you received the Spirit?

A) Or have you been – approaching Christian life in your own strength – Pray today – Baptized with the

B) Some of you could answer: Yes I was – but you have fallen into that trap – unbalanced –

1) Trying harder – your strength – refilled

C) Some of you today: maybe never been saved – Like Apollos – religious – info – no relationship