

Acts 18:23-19:41

When Something is Missing

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) In our study tonight we are going to see that the Apostle Paul – experiences that very thing

1) When he meets some men in the city of Ephesus in Acts 19

C) We are picking up tonight in Acts 18 V24

1) Where 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. Eloquent, fervent

A) He knew the Old Testament Scriptures— thoroughly

It says here He was mighty in the Scriptures.”

B) He was also unusually learned.

BB) Alexandria, the place of his birth, rivaled Athens's reputation for knowledge.

1) 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.

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 – fervent = charismatic – engaging, knew the word — Mighty in scripture

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- talk about missing something!

C) V.25 He only knew of the Baptism of John – He was preaching John's message –

1) **Repent the messiah is coming!**

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.

C) Notice what happens next V.27

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) Similar thing happened to John Wesley

B) Wesley grew up in a godly home – godly parents – Dad was a Pastor 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) John Wesley’s conversion began a movement that historians rank with the French Revolution

1) and the Industrial Revolution as one of the great historical phenomena of the nineteenth century.

E) Wesley’s preaching may have even saved England from a revolution similar to that of France.

The Story of Apollos and John Wesley teach us that it is possible to know the Word – not be saved.

A) They also remind us that we can only take others as far as we have come ourselves

B) Do we want to see others – madly in love with Jesus?

1) Then we need to be madly in Love with Jesus

C) Do we want to see others – living in the fullness of the Spirit?

1) Then we need to be living in the fullness of the Spirit

D) So Apollos ends up in Corinth and Dr. Luke picks up the story with Paul arriving back in Ephesus

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

So Paul meets this group of men in Ephesus who Dr. Luke describes as disciples.

A) Note The term Disciples is used 27 times in the book of Acts and the term Disciple is used 5 times

B) So 32 times we have people referred to as Disciples

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

C) The thing I want you to notice here is that Paul is assuming these guys are saved.

1) I think Dr. Luke uses the term Disciple to make that point clear.

What we are going to discover is that these guys like Apollos are only Disciples of John B – not yet Jesus

A)But Paul thinking they are saved – but sensing something is missing asked – Did you receive

B)Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?

C)What is Paul talking about?

1)He is not talking about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – because that happens at Conversion

D)YOU give your heart to Jesus – embrace the Gospel – He comes to live in your heart – by faith

So Paul is referring to here is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – that empowering

A)Recall – happened to the Disciples Acts 2 – after they were saved!

B)Happened to Paul after his conversion – Rd to Emmaus

C)But in Acts 10 Cornelius and his whole house get saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit the same day!

1)Sometimes it happens all at once

Here is the thing that we need to realize – when it happens – you know it

A)Something changes – me – spoke in tongues and my desire for God word grew a lot

B)Greg Laurie – He didn't speak in tongues but he received a boldness to share his faith more

1)And suddenly he found that his sharing was much more effective

C)The sad thing in the church today is there are many people who are born again

1)But have never been baptized in the Holy Spirit

D)Sometimes I can tell – they know Jesus – but there is something missing –

1)A Power is missing – a Passion –

E)Often times those type of believers are struggling along in the walks

1)So much of it is done in the energy of their flesh
THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT IS LACKING!

What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

A)Not you getting more of the Holy Spirit – He is in your heart

B)But it is the Holy Spirit getting more of you!

1)Sail Analogy

2)Ocean Analogy

C)And even if you know you have been Baptized in the Holy Spirit –

1)Paul spoke of our need in Ephesians 5:18 to be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit

D)See it is very easy for us to revert back to the tendency to rely upon our flesh!

E)But we need to constantly be recognizing our need for Spiritual empowerment to:

1)Live the Christian life – Serve God – be witnesses...

So Paul assuming these guys are born again – asked Did you receive he HS when you believed?

So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?”

So they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

4 Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

A)So not only had these guys not received the Spirit – they hadn't accepted Christ – yet

B)Paul preaches and Jesus to them and they are saved and baptized in the Spirit at once!

C)This began a major move of God in the City of Ephesus.

1)Paul's longest stay – 3 whole years Acts 20:31

Ephesus was a major Metropolis – 4th largest city in the Roman empire A population of about 300,000

A)It was the capital of the Roman Province of Asia –

B) Ephesus was a political, religious, and commercial center in Asia Minor.

1)and Rome's most important commercial center in that region.

C)So this was a Strategic spot for God to do a great work!

Note the work of God begins in Ephesus with these 12 men that get Saved and Baptized – note v.8

8 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. 9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"

16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Note v.20 again -So the word of God grew mightily and prevailed.

A)The rest of our time tonight – consider - WHY did the word grow mightily and Prevail

B)Application to our lives – our church – this city

C)4 observations to make note of

#1 Paul faithfully ministered the Word of God for 2 plus years.

#2 The Word of God went forth and God manifested His power confirming it.

#3 The believers CAME CLEAN concerning secret sin.

#4 The Believers CUT TIES with their past.

#1 Paul faithfully ministered the Word of God for 2 plus years. V.8-10

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A)As always, Paul started in the synagogue, and in Ephesus he had one of his longest hearings—three months

B)So there was more openness in Ephesus than most places where Paul preached –

1) The openness for some didn't last long however. Hearts became hard

C)APP - When we continue faithfully in God's word open to the Holy Spirit – God's word grows in us

1)It prevails – it has it's way.

D)But we need to come to it with an open and responsive heart – Lord what teach me ?

1)What do you want to do in me!

E)Inviting God's word to grow and have it's way!

But if we simply hear it or read it – all information with no application – heart grow hard – stale

A)Difference between hard clay and soft clay? Water

B)Our lives – Water of the Word softens us

C)Cool thing is even when – heart has become hard or stiff

1)Easily softened when we approach the word in the right way again –

So the word of God grew and was prevailing because Paul was being faithful to share the word – 2 plus years

A)#2 The Word of God grew mightily and prevailed because The Word of God went forth and God manifested His power confirmed it. V.11-12

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

B)This advance of the gospel was accompanied by unusual miracles.

1)The Greek says, “miracles not of an ordinary kind.”

C)Some were *direct*, coming through the hands of Paul.

1)Others were *indirect*, being somehow mediated through articles of Paul’s clothing....

The handkerchiefs spoken of here were actually the sweatbands Paul wore around his forehead when he labored as a tentmaker.

A)The aprons were not the kind June Cleaver wore in the kitchen.

B)They were the leather aprons of a blacksmith.

1)Why were Paul’s sweatbands and aprons used for healing?

Remember the woman with the issue of Blood?

A)If I can just touch the hem there wasn’t any power in the hem of Jesus garment

B)But the hem served as a point of Contact that triggered her faith.

1)I believe these sweatbands and Aprons – were the same way.

C)Same idea in the practice of Anointing with oil and laying on of hands –

1)points of contact to trigger faith.

SO God was moving in an unusual way in Ephesus

A)The preaching of the Word – was accompanied by transformation -

B)There was Visible change in the form of Healing He does that – Jesus pp movement – *transcends the generations* – Old young – hippie business man

C)Now what we see next is interesting too – because when God is moving working

1)Always counterfeits that want to get in on the action – see in V.13-17

13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

D)Now in those days, there were “ exorcist who went around like gypsies – dealing with Spirit’s exorcists

1)They collected a fee whether or not they were successful.

E)It was a Racket and the Sons of a Jewish chief priest- Wanted in on the action. -

F)They treated Paul’s words as a magic charm or spell to drive the evil spirits out.

1)I love what happens

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, Ginosko – by experience and Paul I know; acquainted with – servant of Jesus **but who are you?"**

16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

E)Awesome! Jesus I know & Paul – but who the heck are you – Does Hell know us? – prayer/service

These guys were wounded and traumatized. So this became another sign – the word was spreading - V17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on

them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS WAS MAGNIFIED

A) **Magnify** = To make great. Purpose of Church – Magnify – Jesus – not a man – not CCV – movement

B) It was a notable victory over the powers of evil in Ephesus.

C) Leads us to consider the third reason the Word of God grew mightily and Prevailed.

#3 The believers CAME CLEAN concerning secret sin.

18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

A) Came is **LITERALLY** - They kept coming, one after another.

B) This was such a move of God's Spirit working through the word – no coaxing – no begging

1) Convicted and coming clean – clearing out the closets
Of their hearts

C) **Bitterness** – sexual immorality – stealing – occultic practices

1) Confessing – I need prayer – need to repent

D) Revival happens – Not just a bunch of people excited about Jesus for a season –

1) There is a Sanctification that follows –

#4 The Believers CUT TIES with their past. V.19

“Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.” **10k today**

A) This is **RADICAL** - They brought their books on magic and spells and burned them all.

B) They were **BURNING** and all **BRIDGES** to their past.

C) When did the Word of God grow and prevail? When the believers burned their junk.

APPLICATION FOR US TODAY!

A) **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** – results in a great move of God's word in the city!

B) When filled with the Spirit – dependent on the Spirit our appetite for God's word grows

1) Spirit is in our hearts daily – Abba intimacy

C) Recognize need of dependency instruction

D) Start to see the Manifestation of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts

1) Transformation and change in our lives attitudes perspectives – habits

E) What is happening to you – You have changed

F) Start experiencing the Holy Spirit prompting you and empowering you – moving you – usefulness

In the midst of all of that is well is a greater work of Sanctification

A) Cutting ties with the Past

B) Laying aside the weights and sin

C) Able to run the race more freely – not encumbered by distractions and other things

D) All apart of the Word and God growing and prevailing – Holy Spirit empowering a life

But there is one other thing you can also count on – OPPOSITION

A) God was moving in Ephesus and the Enemy seeks to come against it

B) God is moving in your life – the enemy does the same thing!

²¹ When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” ²² So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

A) Seeing God move in Ephesus birthed inside of Paul a vision to see God move elsewhere!

B) Paul has a desire to go to two places to preach the gospel – Jerusalem and Rome

C) Jerusalem – center of the Jewish world

1) Rome the center of the Gentile world

D) Paul wanted to bring Jesus to both

E) His vision is expanding and growing – but so is the opposition

²³ And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. ²⁴ For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. ²⁵ He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. ²⁶ Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. ²⁷ So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

The idol of the goddess Diana was unbelievably ugly.

A) Fashioned from a chunk of black rock believed to have been sent from Jupiter,

B) She was a grotesque-looking multi-breasted female.

1) Yet people came from all over Asia to worship at the shrine of Diana, the goddess of fertility.

C) This guy Demetrius saw this as a great opportunity to go into the souvenir business,

1) Little Goddess of Diana shrines - Times really haven't changed have they

But now that people were coming to Christ – they are turning from their idols –

A) Demetrius and his crew are not liking that – losing money.

B) In the Welsh Revival of 1901, under the anointed ministry of Robert Murray McCheyne, so great was the revival that every tavern and pub in Wales went broke.

C) How many anti-alcohol sermons did McCheyne deliver? None.

1) How many tirades against taverns? Zero.

D) People simply lost all interest in alcohol when they got touched by the Lord and filled with the Spirit.

1) The same thing happened in Ephesus. When people got saved, the idol business dried up.

Interesting how Demetrius acts like he is all concerned about the magnificence of Diana - temple

the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

²⁸ Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, “Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!” ²⁹ So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul’s travel companions. ³⁰ And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him.

Although the disciples saw danger, Paul saw an opportunity to preach.

³¹ Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. ³² Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 😊 **Mobs** ³³ And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people.

Alexander wanted to make sure that the mob knew that the Jews did not approve of Paul either; but he accomplished nothing before the angry crowd.

³⁴ But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried **out for about two hours**, “Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!”

³⁵ And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: “Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the *image* which fell down from Zeus?”

³⁶ Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you

ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. ³⁸ Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. ⁴⁰ For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

The city clerk (something like the mayor of the city) spoke sensible words.

A) Hey we are only making problems for ourselves with Rome if we allow this to escalate

B) Dr. Luke wanted to show that rational people saw nothing to fear or oppose in Christianity.

**C) This chapter teaches us all a permanent lesson: that when disciples have a true revival,
1) society gets a revolution.**

D) Things change – but it starts with us – our hearts our homes – our families – our lives

Do you want the word of God to grow in your life and prevail?

A) Have you received the Spirit ?

B) DO you need a fresh filling ? Dependent ?