

Acts 18:24-19:7 Are You Missing Something?

Have you ever been in a situation where you became aware you were missing something?

A) Dinner with your wife - or perhaps a date if you are single

B) Enjoying a wonderful meal, wonderful conversation - a great time - clicking

1) The Bill comes and you realize - **missing your wallet**

2) you left your wallet in your other coat at home - Awkward?

C) Or you are a gal and you head to the Gym after work - getting dressed - Missing your Gym shoes

1) you realize you forgot to put them in your gym bag all you have are heels - bummer!

D) You are a guy - you head to the gym on your lunch break - you get in a great 40min cardio workout

1) All sweaty - head back to take a shower - only to discover - missing your bath towel. - Dilemma

E) You desperately need to shower before heading back to work - Dilemma -

1) Do you ask a stranger if you can borrow theirs?

How about this one - you show up at an event only to discover that you are horribly underdressed.

A) Missed the detail on invitation: Formal attire...

B) Even though you look nice in your Business casual attire - everyone else is in Tuxes and Formal gowns

C) It is the worst when you find yourself in a situation where you are missing something really important

What is even worse is when a person finds themselves severely lacking in a spiritual way

A) That is exactly what we see in the text before us today

B) A man by the name of Apollos who was trying to serve the Lord and preach to others

1) He himself was not yet born again

C) Then a group of men in Ephesus who were missing the empowering of the Holy Spirit

D) See today - how these two stories unfold

What Apollos was Missing?

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.

A) The Baptism of John was for repentance- and to get ready for the coming of Messiah

1) John - Prepare the way / prepare hearts

Apollos was a Bible Scholar - He knew the Old Testament Scriptures—thoroughly

A) 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.

C) The greatest library in the world was in Alexandria. 700,000 volumes

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

1) The Septuagint was accomplished there.

E) So Apollos was a learned man – and he was also “an eloquent man” - A persuasive orator

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

Today we might say of Apollos – He had the whole package —

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

B) Smart, Eloquent – knew the word – engaging – charismatic / persuasive

1) One problem – He wasn’t born again yet

C) He didn’t know the Messiah that John the Baptist spoke of had already come

Apollos’ story, is also the story of another famous preacher by the name of John Wesley

A) A man by the name of John Wesley.

B) Wesley grew up in a godly home – godly parents

1) His Dad was a Pastor and mom – a Saint in every sense of the word.

C) Everything about Susanna Wesley gushed forth godliness

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

Wesley chose to follow in his father's 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 –
1) BORN AGAIN THAT NIGHT.**

C) 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.

See It is not enough to know the lingo - the stories - the verses

A) You have to have had a personal encounter with Jesus

B) Apollos was on a similar track - he was gifted and knowledgeable, he was passionate about God
1) But he was missing one key thing

C) He didn't have a relationship with Jesus!

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 Aquila 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

C) This simple husband and wife team ended up being used by God to reach this impressive orator
1) Apollos

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

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

1) 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 – Great lesson

1) The truth of Christ and life in the Spirit comes 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?

A) Apollos became an incredibly effective minister of the gospel.

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.**

B)The same thing happened to Wesley - Wesley became know as a powerful evangelist and teacher

C)Founder of the United Methodist Church -
1)Road on Horse back to preaching the gospel - 250,000 miles - enough to cover the earth 10X

D)He made seven tours of the colonies and preached roughly 18,000 sermons.
1)His sermons and writings are still read and revered by Christians around the world.

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

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

B)we can lift others only to the level on which we ourselves live.

C)Do we want to see others fall madly in love with Jesus?

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

D)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

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

F)He encounters a group of men who were also missing something

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)But we discover that these men like Apollos were not yet born again. Followers of John the B.

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

C)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. –

D)Acts 19:1 is the lone exception

I believe that the Holy Spirit inspired Dr. Luke to use the term Disciples on purpose –

A)To make this point clear - Paul thinks these men are saved and are followers of Jesus

B)But Paul is sensing something is missing in their lives - so he asked –

1)**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**

C)So 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 –

1)**The HS comes to live in your heart – by faith**

Paul makes this very clear in writing to the Romans

A)If you have placed your faith in Jesus as Risen from the dead - the Spirit of God dwells in you

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.

That is how Paul describes being born again - the Spirit of God dwelling in you.

A)The mark of being Born again - Born of the Spirit - the Holy Spirit is living in you.

B)There is a Noticeable change

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.

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

That is why it is important to note that Paul's question can't be referencing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit –

A) That doesn't make any sense – it is a given of someone who is saved.

B) If you are saved - if you have embraced Jesus - expressed faith in Jesus

1) The HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN YOU.

C) So to ask if you received the Spirit when you believed -

1) Would be like asking - **Have you been breathing since you were born?**

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

E) If Paul was at all questioning their salvation – he would have asked the question –

1) Have you received Christ or have you embraced the gospel?

So Paul's question is referencing something else!

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

B) Jesus explained to His disciples there would be a 3 fold work of the HS in their lives in John 14 –

1) Insight into what the ministry of the Holy Spirit would look like.

C) There he said: **It is important that I go – when I go then the Spirit will come.**

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— Another Helper. The same kind - just like me - then we identifies this helper - ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:16-18

D) He is with you – but shall be in you.

Key distinction: The Holy Spirit was with them because the Spirit was filling Jesus –

A) Jesus returned from his time of temptation in the wilderness - full of the Holy Spirit

B) The ministry of the HS with a person: **Is to draw people to Jesus by convicting them of sin.** –

John 16:8

1) Not saved - The HS is doing that now/ - convicting of sin - and knocking 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!

B) When were the disciples indwelt with the Holy Spirit? Answer John 20:22

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

D) It was at that moment that the Disciples were born again. - Indwelt with the HS

Well after the Disciples were indwelt with the HS in John 20:22 –

A) Jesus told them to go into Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them - Acts 1

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.”**

B) He describing a new experience with the HS - being Baptized with the HS

1) Then Jesus describes what this **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** is going to look like. V.8

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 –

B) Upon Purpose? Empowered for service and for living the Christian life.

1) Empowered to be his Witnesses

C) Listen the Baptism of the Holy Spirit - or the HS coming upon you is not you getting more of the HS

1) He is in your heart - you can't get any more of Him

D) So it is not you getting more of the HS - it is the HS getting more of you!

1) Sail Analogy

2) Ocean Analogy

Now this is what we have seen concerning the Baptism of the HS in the book of Acts

A) The Disciples are saved in John 20 - breathed on them.....Hs

B) But they are baptized with the HS in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. - after their conversion

In Acts 8 people in Samaria are saved through the preaching of Philip

A) And they are later baptized with the Holy Spirit when Peter and John Arrive in Samaria

B) In Acts 9 Paul is saved on the road to Damascus when he encounters Jesus,

1) but is later baptized with the Holy Spirit when Ananias is sent to him.

C) In all three of those situations - the believers were baptized with the HS - after they believed.

But then in Acts 10 we see Peter comes to Caesarea to the Home of Cornelius

A) He preaches Jesus and they believed in his message and were saved and baptized with the HS AT THAT SAME TIME

B) Salvation and the Baptism of the HS happened simultaneously

1) They believed for Salvation and started speaking in tongues which was often the evidence of HS baptism

C) That is what Paul is asking here-

1) He wants to know if their experience was like that of the house of Cornelius

D) Did you receive the HS when you believed - were you baptized with the HS then?

1) Or have you not been baptized with the HS Yet?

So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." (No idea what you are talking about)

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

So they said, "Into John's baptism." (Repentance prep)

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."

Paul tells them John was pointing to Jesus

⁵ When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Water baptism - Identifying with Jesus - this is when these guys get saved

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.

Now as we wrap this up today - An important question we all need to answer is this

A) Have you been baptized with the HS? - Have you received that empowering of the HS?

B) Years ago a man was attending a Ministry Conference -

1) During break went for a walk - contemplating life in the Spirit - Led and empowered

C) Property of the Conference was near a small lake

D) On the other side of the Lake - house - well - he could see the silhouette of a man - pumping...

As he watched the man - the man just seemed to be pumping nonstop - vigorously -

A) Watched with amazement - who is this man

B) He decided to walk around the lake to get a closer look -

1) As he got closer he discovered that what he was looking at wasn't a man at all

C) It was a wooden cut out of a man - hinge on his arm that was attached to the arm of the pump

D) He discovered - the arm was not moving or pumping the well -

1)The Well was pumping the arm

That is when it hit him - Life in the Spirit is not about me pumping harder -

A)It is about the Holy Spirit pumping me - empowering me

B)Not just for ministry but to live the Christian life in General

C)Paul makes this extra clear in the book of Ephesians - please 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.

A)Theme of Section – Our walk – walking in Wisdom

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

C)Wise life a life that is in balance - not out of balance

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

A)From here Paul is going to 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 Alcohol or drugs - or some other vice

1)video games – Vaping - anything to take edge off

C)Paul is Presenting a contrast – NOT YOU –

1)You BE FILLED.... The HS

D)This is a command not a suggestion. Literally - Be continually being filled –

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

A)You need the daily help of Jesus – to be what He has called you to be/ do what He has called you to do

B)as a Christian, as wife, husband, parent, a worker and as a servant of Jesus

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 – dependent 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.

Close today: Some of you need to answer the question: Do you know Jesus? Believed embraced? Have you received the Spirit?

A)Do you have knowledge? But no KNOWING

B)YOU NEED TO EMRACED JESUS TODAY

1)Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart

C)But there are others of you here today who need to answer the question -

1)Have you ever been baptized with the HS ?

Now I think when you receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit you know it

A)Spiritual gifts - tongues - prophecy - etc

B)Me - greater hunger to read the word and a boldness to talk to others about Jesus

C)You experience an empowering to follow Jesus

D)My Point: If you have received the Baptism of the HS - you know it - CHANGE

But even after we receive that initial baptism of the HS - there is a constant need to be refilled

A)To be filled afresh - WE LEAK

B)So easy for us to fall back into the habit of relying on our own strength

C)You start trying to follow Jesus in your own strength

D)You start trying to serve Jesus in your own energy

E)Exhausting - More dependent on you - techniques - read in some book

1)Less dependent on God - His Spirit

So as we close today - Ask the worship team to come up

A)Also asking our Pastors and Elders and some of our ministry leaders to come forward - front

B)If you are here today - don't know if you have ever received the baptism - come forward for prayer

1)Receive power today - Walk with Jesus - serve Jesus

C)Maybe you have been baptized - you just need a fresh filling - Fresh power - come get prayer

D)Saved - and filled in One - I want to receive Jesus today and be baptized with the Holy Spirit