

Open Sails Part 2 - Acts 19:1-7 “Have You Received the Spirit?”

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 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.”

Have you ever been around someone who looked like a Christian?

A) What does a Christian look like?

B) How about someone who claimed to be a Christian

1) Talked like a Christian

C) But there just seemed to be something missing

1) Something didn’t seem right – Something that seemed off!

D) That is where Paul finds himself here in Acts 19

Acts 19 takes place on Paul’s 3rd missionary Journey – see him arriving in the city of 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 –

It is interesting that Dr. Luke V.1 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 already 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

1) As we read the text – we discover they had only been followers of John the Baptist – Had not heard the gospel yet.

E) Paul shares with them and they get saved –

Paul is assuming they are Christians – Assuming they are believers – MISSING

A) MAKES the question Paul asked a very intriguing question. – Have you received the Spirit!

B) The Reason that is an odd question is we established last week – Study #1

1) You place your faith in Christ – Born again

C) You receive the Spirit! – You are indwelt with the Holy Spirit!

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

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.

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

1) So Paul is not talking about that – No sense

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

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

B) Or asking – Did your heart start beating when you were born.

1) Breath and a heart beat are signs of life!

C)Emergency: Is he breathing? Check the Pulse: - FACTS OF LIFE

The Holy Spirit in you is a Fact of CONVERSION.

❖ Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

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

A)OR Have you put your faith in Christ?

B)But Paul is assuming that they were already believers – already Disciples

1) **So the question Received the spirit? Is referencing something else! –**

C)So what was Paul referring to ?

1)**What is the meaning of Paul's question?**

D)A careful study of What happened in the life of the disciples in the book of Acts gives us the answer!

Turn to Acts Chapter 1

Recall – John 14:17 “The Holy Spirit is with you, but He shall be in you.”

A)We noted when that happened to the disciples

B)John 20:22 – Jesus **Breathed on them and said – receive the Holy Spirit.**

C)At that moment they were born again!

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

A)Jesus told them to go into Jerusalem and wait for something else to happen

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)Jesus describes what that looks like in Acts 1:8

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.”

A)Notice that word UPON – New Connection with the Holy Spirit.

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

C)Baptized = Immersed –

Again – **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not you getting more of the Holy Spirit –**

A)It is the Holy Spirit getting more of You!
OPEN SAILS ANALOGY

B)ANOTHER ANALOGY – In the ocean - Toe/ Ankle/ Knee/ Waist/ Over my head

Cc)Difference of trying to run with the wave and Letting the WAVES PUSH ME

D)That is what Happens when Jesus baptizes you with the Holy Spirit

1)Overflowing – HOLY SPIRIT has all of you.

Question: **WHEN** Does the Baptism of the Holy Spirit happen?

❖ **at Conversion?**

❖ **Does it happen after we are saved? – Subsequent work?**

❖ **Does it happen more than once?**

A)The Answer to all of those questions is yes!

B)Pattern that we see in the book of Acts!

C)With the Disciples it was subsequent to conversion:

1)Conversion: John 20:22 – Saw Jesus resurrected – Believed –

Romans 10:9 “if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

D) Safe to say that happened to them that night/yes?

1) John 20:22 - **Breathed on them and said – Receive the Holy Spirit. - born again**

But then we find them in Acts 2 – Upper room on the Day of Pentecost – waiting like Jesus said

A) Waiting for this Baptism – Waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them.

B) Acts 2 describes what happens -

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

C) Verse 4 is important – because it is describing this event of being Baptized with the Holy Spirit – but uses the term filled.

1) MAKE A MENTAL NOTE –

Cc) The terms **Baptized with the Spirit and Filled with the Spirit** are used INTERCHANGEABLY!

D) Filled = **to Permeate – Salt permeating meat**

1) RUB - The Flavor of the salt INTO the meat

E) Person is Baptized in the Spirit or filled with the Spirit – **The Holy Spirit permeates their life**

1) They begin to act MORE LIKE JESUS

So on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell – Disciples were empowered – they spoke with tongues –

A) Peter's Boldness - Preaches – 3,000 saved.

B) Acts 4 – **Could tell they had been with Jesus**

C) Point – with Disciples – It occurred after Salvation!

Another Example: Acts 8 Believers in Samaria

v.4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. ⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded

the things spoken by Philip, (**Heeded = Pay close attention to. – Engaged**) hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.

V.12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, (Faith) both men and women were baptized. (Baptism is the outward expression of faith)

¹³ Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

God is working in Samaria

V.14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, (Faith) they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

A) So they **heard the word and put their faith in Christ and were Baptized in water** - but the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon them.

B) In other words They were not YET baptized in the Holy Spirit

1) So Peter and John are sent down.

¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

C) So once again we see that with the Believers in Samaria – this happens post conversion. {Baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Then in Acts 9 we have the conversion of Paul the Apostle.

V.1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus,

and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Now based on our Romans 10:9 definition – I would think that Paul was converted here.

A) He realizes that Jesus is Risen.

B) He confesses him as Lord – Who are you Lord – And there is submission – what do you want me to do.

C) Paul goes into the city and waits – God speaks to a man by the name of Ananias v.10

Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

¹¹ So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

D) Ananias argues at first – Dude is Dangerous – God reassures

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

E) Saved On Damascus Road/ Baptized w/ Spirit Here ONCE AGAIN we have a reference to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as being filled with the Holy Spirit. –

A) So there are 3 examples of times when the Baptism of the Holy Spirit happened after conversion.

B) But is that always the case: - Answer is no

C) Now let's look at two examples of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit happening at the same time as someone's conversion.

Acts Chapter 10 – Cornelius – Story

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

⁴ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"

So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." ⁷ And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. ⁸ So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Religious guy – Godly guy - not saved – Hasn't heard the Gospel –

A) But he is a believer in Jehovah the Jewish God.

B) God is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

C) V.9-33 describe the vision that Peter had and the events that got him to Caesarea to the home of Cornelius. – A GENTILE – HUGE

D) First account of the gospel going to the Gentiles

1) Peter & Cornelius meet – Cornelius recounts the Visit from the Angel

Peter: V.34-43 – Preaches the Gospel – the Story of Jesus

A) Romans 10:17 "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

B) Peter is preaching – Faith is being ignited - before he can get to the altar call – the invitation

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell upon** all those who heard the word.

45 And those of the circumcision who believed {The Jewish people with Peter} were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been **poured out** on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, 47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

C) So here is a clear example of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Happening **at the same time as conversion**.

One more example – our text in Acts 19: The disciples of John in Ephesus.

A) Have you received the Spirit? Haven't heard Only John's Baptism

V.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.” {John's ministry was to prepare}

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.... 12 men in all.**

B) Another example of this happening at that same time as salvation.

C) Note: In every single one of those instances where someone was Baptized with the HOLY SPIRIT - -

1) Something tangible happened! – Tongues – Boldness – Prophesied -

Important to note: When a person is Baptized in the Spirit – it should be noticeable

A) My life – I all of a sudden had this insatiable desire to read the word of God and a boldness to tell others about Jesus.

B) Greg Laurie – I didn't speak in tongues – But all of a sudden I had boldness in my life to share the gospel.

C) Others describe – **A Power to live victoriously** – Victory in their lives in areas they never experienced before.

Purpose:

A) Empower you to share the Gospel and live a Victorious Christian life.

B) Important to note: Not weird – not so you get gifts and others – Oooh and Awwww

1) Better equipped to be a vessel that God can work in !

C) Don't want to walk in obedience – don't want to be a vessel – **PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE FILLED!** - **** KEVIN STEELE- I WANT ALL**

LAST QUESTION: One time?

OR - Can a person be refilled?

A) DL Moody – I leak

B) PETER'S LIFE Acts 4:8 – Peter being interrogated – “And Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit said.....”

And Paul writes something in Ephesians 5 that gives us some insight into THIS QUESTION.

A) Ephesians 5 Paul is talking about Walking with God – V.15 “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

B) The Theme of walking with God began in Ch 4

C) **17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** { Transition into talking about marriage and Family – parenting – being a Christian in the work place - **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 – { porn – Affair

C) A hobby – video games –

D) Presenting a contrast – **NOT YOU** – You BE FILLED

**This is a command not a suggestion. – Literally:
Be continually being filled –**

A) **Daily filled – daily Baptized** – Daily – you say
–I want to be an open sail

B) **ADMITTING** Lord I need you to be the
HUSBAND /WIFE/ PARENT/ WORKER

C) **THAT IS WHAT THIS IS SAYING** - this
really is the key to the Christian life.

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

**The key to the Christian life is not about trying
harder! – It is about surrender.**

A) **Problem:** We read a Christian book – on
principles for having a godly marriage –

B) **Ok** – Memorized the principles – now I am
going to try really hard

C) **Success** for a week or two or three – right
back into old habits

1) **Frustrated** -

**Read a book on Parenting – Ok Lord – here we
go**

A) **Works** for a while – or with the first child but
the next child is completely different – oh no!

NOW WHAT

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

Aa) **Learning** to live a life – dependent on the
HOLY SPIRIT

B) **Lord** I need your help – I Need you to
empower me – need your wisdom

C) **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.

D) **Walking** in the Spirit.

1) **Forgotten God** – We don't talk about this

**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 –

B) **Pray** today – Baptized with the HOLY SPIRIT

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

1) **Trying harder – your strength – refilled**

D) **Not saved** - Start – Give your life – Ask God
to Baptize you – all at once!

Pray