

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Acts 19:1-10

- Paul is now on his third missionary journey and as we've seen he's experienced every response humanly possible toward the gospel like > some mocked or ignored, others rejected and became angry, even violent, to the point where they beat, stoned, and imprisoned Paul, but there were many who believed, and as > **1Thess 1:9** says "**turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God**". Now he's in Ephesus where he is going to find some professing believers in need of more discipling and teaching in order to come to a correct place of understanding.

#### V1-10

- **V1-2** Paul was last in Ephesus on his way back from Corinth on his second missionary journey in **18:21**, remember he'd experienced success there so much so that they begged him to stay a while longer, but he refused, saying "**if it's the Lord's will that he'd return to them**" well it was the Lord's will. Upon arriving there he meets 12 men who profess to be believers, but whose lives gave evidence that something was gravely missing. Have this ever happened to you?
- You meet someone and they profess to believe what you believe but your discernment is saying otherwise, and you might not be able to put your finger on it until you ask some basic questions, that's exactly what Paul does. In asking whether they'd received the Holy Spirit when they believed showed Paul whether or not they'd still be following the gospel of John which focused on repentance and baptism or the gospel of grace which focused on Jesus and forgiveness.
- To understand this one must know that scripture calls them disciples so this is not asking whether the Holy Spirit came inside them when they accepted Jesus instead this is speaking of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Remember Apollos in **Acts 18:24-26** he also believed in Jesus but only knew the gospel according to the baptism of John the Baptist, it wasn't until Aquila and Priscilla showed him the gospel of grace instead of repentance which he happily received.
- **V3-4** upon further questioning its revealed that they'd only heard the gospel of repentance as taught by John the Baptist, that meant they knew the Messiah was coming, and may have already heard that it was Jesus and accepted Him as Savior, they also knew that there was a Holy Spirit and that He would one day baptize God's people, but what they didn't know was His nature and work in the life of a believer and because of that ignorance it hindered their growth.
- **V5-7** just like Apollos once they hear the fullness of the truth they receive and believe going from the baptism of repentance to the gospel of grace, and afterward are baptized but that's not all Paul lays hands on them and they speak in tongues and prophesy. This is what happens when hearts have been prepared by God even though they are not walking in truth.

- Notice how teachable these men are, they could have resisted, they could have said I know the truth, it's done all right by me thus far, why should I change now. We need to realize that we're always learning and that none of us have a copyright on the truth, if what you believe is shown to be wrong the correct attitude is "I'll change" not it's what I always believed and that's it, which sadly is the stance of many in the church, they are not open to self examination and so instead of being teachable they stay where they are spiritually and remain un-teachable.
- **V8** like before Paul goes into the Synagogue and he reasoning and persuading the hearers, but this time here in Ephesus it's a little different than it was in Thessalonica and Corinth. Here it uses a word that means "to systematically dispute" instead of dialogue, these people here were putting forth arguments to attack what Paul was teaching as opposed to listening and pondering. So Paul broke down their arguments step by step until he persuaded them to see the error of their thinking about God and His Word. This shows you will have different types of obstacles to face when it comes to people's wrong beliefs, some will listen others will argue.
- **V9-10** when people showed that no matter what Paul showed them they wouldn't change their wrong beliefs he stopped and walked away > **Tit 3:10-11**. Afterward he went to the gentiles and a teacher named Tyrannus and began to speak-teach there and he carried this on for two whole years, this helped equip the saints for the ministry > **Eph 4:11**. It also allowed him to go over the deep doctrinal truths that we find in the book Ephesians, things like > election, spiritual gifts and calling, why we were created, parenting, marriage, employee-employer relations, things that we follow and hold dear to this day and pass on to those who we love and care about.