

The Acts of the Apostles, Part 41: Repentance, Salvation, & the Holy Spirit

Key Scripture: Acts 19:1-7

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

❖ Trouble in the Text

- Again, we have some people with limited knowledge about Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

❖ Is *repentance* and a belief in God enough for salvation?

- Hundreds of years of human history says ‘no’.

❖ Trouble in the World

- Many people believe that they are “fine”.
 - But are they really “fine”?
- Many people believe in a “god” of some sort.
 - Will any “god” be fine?
- Many people are repentant (sorry) for their sins.
 - Is repentance enough to be “fine”?

❖ Galatians 5:22-25

- “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”

❖ Grace in the Text

- The Apostle Paul was the *perfect* person to help these disciples learn about and believe in Jesus as the Christ.

❖ John 1:1-15

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light.
- 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. 12 But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’”)

❖ Testimony of John the Baptist

➤ John 1:29-34

- 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” 30 This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. 33 I myself did not know Him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

❖ Grace in the World

➤ Evidence of History

- History demonstrates Jesus as a real man, but also *more* than a man.

➤ Evidence of Practice

- Following the teachings of Jesus will *a/ways* improve your life, 100% guaranteed.

➤ Evidence of the Holy Spirit

- The third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit...
 - Convinces us to listen and learn about Jesus
 - Convince us so we can repent to Jesus
 - Enables us to *know* Jesus
 - Empowers us to *follow* Jesus

❖ The Shema, repeated by Jesus

- “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

❖ Revealed as Three in One

- Matthew 3:16-17
 - And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”