

Holy Spirit: Part 1 – Going After God

❖ How to Start Going After God

- Come to church.
 - Make God's house a priority.
- Lean in.
 - Come early.
 - Take notes.
 - Listen for what God is saying.
- Bring others with on the journey.
- Share our faith.

Acts 19:1-6 ESV

¹ 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.

❖ How Holy Spirit Operates in Our Lives

- 1) When we get saved
 - a) The Holy Spirit comes to live in us.
- 2) When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - a) The Holy Spirit comes upon us.
 - i) A second, outward experience
- 3) When we embrace the Holy Spirit
 - a) It can greatly improve our lives and relationship with God.

Acts 7:51 NIV

"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"

❖ Something to Ask Ourselves

- As Christians, are we willing to let go of ungodly traditions for what God is revealing to us now?
 - Many people who love Jesus still resist the Holy Spirit.

❖ The Example of Apollos (Acts 18)

- Could preach and teach greatly but only knew the baptism of John
 - Aquila and Pricilla explained the things of God more accurately to him.
 - God wanted to take him to another level.
 - ◆ He needed the Holy Spirit to get there.
- This message is for those who are like Apollos.
 - i.e., for those who have been taught about the Holy Spirit and have studied about the Holy Spirit
 - God is going to use this series to take us higher.
 - ◆ We won't have knowledge only about John's baptism but also Jesus' baptism.

❖ Jesus' Baptism

- Jesus himself received the Holy Spirit at his baptism.
 - The first thing that Jesus instructs his disciples to do after his ascension is to go and wait for the promise of the Father.
 - The Holy Spirit is the power of God in the heart.

❖ Importance of the Holy Spirit

- God is asking us to come before His throne of grace with boldness and faith.
 - Faith is having confidence in His word.
- God is waiting on us to insist to go after Him.

John 16:7 NIV

⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

❖ Tips on How to Pursue the Holy Spirit

- 1) Do not allow past traditions to stop us from receiving the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Do not allow personality traits stop us from going after the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Do not allow other's opinions to stop us from going after the Holy Spirit.

❖ Verses That Focus on Going After God

Matthew 5:6 NIV

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

John 7:37a NIV

³⁷ ...“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink...

James 4:8 NIV

⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you...

Luke 24:49 NIV

⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."