

ACTS 19:1-21

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This chapter in the book of Acts is absolutely fascinating. It begins with Paul teaching and explaining the Holy Spirit to a group of disciples who hadn't yet heard, and ends with an anecdote from the author (Luke) on the power of the Holy Spirit that was upon Paul. As we're making our way through the Book of Acts, it's impossible not to notice the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit on every page and in every story. It's important to remember that these aren't just words on a page but actual moments that happened in history - and the same Holy Spirit we read about is alive in us!

QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you about the passage? What do you notice? What do you find interesting? What questions came up as you read it to yourself?

Paul addressed a group of people who Luke calls "disciples"; however, this group of individuals didn't seem like they really knew much about Christ or what He had accomplished for them- namely, the sending of the Holy Spirit. After learning about the Holy Spirit, the men were baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Spirit.

2. What's the difference between John's baptism of repentance and Jesus' baptism?
 - a. How did John's baptism fulfill what was prophesied of John in preparing the way for Jesus?
 - b. How does Jesus' baptism bring about newness of life?
3. There's been *a lot* of debate over whether these men were saved prior to this moment. Whether they were saved prior to this moment or not, what's apparent is that the Holy Spirit came upon them and they were "*filled with power from on high*".
 - a. Have you or anyone you've known ever gone from a place of knowing "about God" to "knowing God" and receiving the Holy Spirit? Talk about that experience.

Paul walked and taught with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit - so much so items he touched were being brought to sick people and they were being healed.

4. The power of the Holy Spirit is noticeable and it draws attention. How do you think Paul handled that attention without letting it go to his head?
5. How can we too remain humble even when the Holy Spirit is using us to perform signs and wonders?

PRAYER

Father, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Use us Lord, to accomplish your will in our families and communities. Teach us to remember all that you have done and spoken through your son Jesus Christ and to walk in the power of your Holy Spirit - daily. Amen.