

Acts 19:1-20 “The Power of the Spirit Manifest”

Intro. God is seeking those who worship Him in Spirit and in truth [Jn. 4]. We need both the Holy Spirit and the truth – the Word of God - to be the worshipers God desires who experience transformed lives for Christ

Subject: The Need for the Holy Spirit & the Word

Object: Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Context: the beginning of Paul’s 3rd missionary journey

1. The need for the Holy Spirit [1-7]

v.1 Ephesus: 2nd largest city in Roman Empire, large commercial center, capital of Roman Province Asia [modern Turkey], visited by Paul on 2nd mission trip, Temple of Diana [1 of 7 wonders of Ancient world, 127 white marbles pillars 60’ high], immoral

disciples: believers in Christ [2]

a. Did you receive the Holy Spirit? [2] Paul presumably asked because something was apparently missing in the Christian life [* like a radio needs an antenna, a Christian needs the HS, cf. wrong frequency & quenching, grieving the Spirit

i. The work of the Holy Spirit shall be manifest in a follower of Christ

had not even heard about the Holy Spirit: lacking knowledge [cf. Apollos Ac.18]

v.3 what were you baptized into? Mt.28:19 Name of the Father, the Son and the HS

v.3-4 John’s baptism: focus on repentance to prepare for Messiah

b. To receive the baptism of the Spirit you must submit to Christ

v.5 the believers were baptized as a symbol of submission to Christ’s authority

[cf. identification with Jesus’ death and Resurrection and the Spirit-empowered life **Rom.6**]. Baptism in the Bible always involves immersion – symbol: water baptism – immersed in water; baptism of suffering [Mt.20:22] – immersed in suffering; baptism into Jesus [Rom.6:3] – immersed in Christ; baptism of the HS – immersed in the spirit

v.6 the Holy Spirit came upon them: believers have 3 relationships with the HS – with [Jn.14:17], in [[Jn.14:17, 20:22], upon [Ac.1:8] (called the baptism of the HS Ac1:5

c. the baptism of the Spirit is distinct from salvation. It may occur at salvation [Ac.2,10] or subsequent [Ac.8 Samaritans, Ac.9 Paul, Ac.19 Ephesians]

v.6 tongues and prophesied: the baptism of the Spirit was manifest. Tongues = prayer/ praise language to God. Not all believers speak in tongues [1Cor14:5]

d. 4 examples of the Spirit manifest in transformed lives: Christ-like character [Gal. 5:22-23], gifts of the Spirit used to build up others [Rom.12, 1Cor.12], victory over life-dominating sin [Rom.8], power to represent Christ [Ac.1:8]

?How has the Holy Spirit been manifest in your life?

2. The need for the Word [8-10] People filled with the Spirit desire the Word

v.8 three months at the synagogue reasoning and persuading: showing that Jesus is the Christ from the OT Scriptures, explaining God's kingdom

v.9 taught daily: When Paul was opposed at the synagogue he moved to the school where philosophers gathered (meeting hall). In Ephesus work from 7-11 then rest from 11-4, then work from 4-9. So Paul had access to the empty school.

v.10 over two years teaching the Bible to make disciples: Paul was eager to teach & they were eager to learn [* Foundations > Community Group > Som ...

a. The results of studying & teaching the Bible: word of God spread [10], grew mightily & prevailed [20], many were persuaded [26]. Christians were equipped, churches were planted [Rev.2-3], leaders were developed [Ac.20].

i. **Rev.2:1-7** church was grounded in the Word, good works, and special love for God

? What is your plan for Bible study/reading in the coming season?

3. Distinguish genuine works of the Spirit from counterfeits [11-17]

v.11-12 special works of the Spirit re Paul's ministry to heal the diseased & demon possessed: The purpose of special works of the Spirit is to meet needs, authenticate the message, & display God's power/authority.

v.13-17 itinerant Jewish exorcists: charged a fee, traveled a circuit, and **seven sons of Sceva [14]** tried to capitalize on what they saw Paul do –they tried to use the name of Jesus like a formula but had no real relationship with Christ (whom Paul preaches [13]). They had no real power and no protection.

v.15 the evil spirit knew Paul: prolonged attention, feared Paul re power of Jesus

v.16-17 counterfeits had no real power to oppose evil or transform lives

4. The work of the Word and Spirit produces revival and reform [18-20]

v.18-19 many believed. Those who had practiced magic/occult brought their books & burned them publicly. Valued at 50,000 pieces of silver: 1 year salary of 150 men

a. repentance and reform flows from the Spirit and the Word

* **Welsh Revival 1901** Robert McCheyne – taverns & pubs closed because people touched by God & stopped drinking – radical reform > cleansing sanctification

Reflection: consider one area of your life where you may need to repent from to experience revival?

Neh.13 cleanse storerooms and restore the things of God

v.20 Then the word of God grew mightily and prevailed: when things opposed to God were removed from their lives than God's Spirit and Word prevailed.

Communion Luke 11:11-13, be filled [Eph.5:18] and don't quench [1Th.5:19]

Discussion Qs

1. How has the Holy Spirit been manifest in your life?

2. What is your plan for Bible study/reading in the coming season?

3. What are some issues that Christians generally may need to repent from to experience revival?

4. Reflection: consider one area of your life where you may need to repent from to experience revival?