

# “A Saving Knowledge of Jesus”

Acts 19:1-20, ESV

**Introduction:** Are you saved? Are you sure? What saves? Church attendance? Tithing? Walking down a church aisle? Baptism? Social activism? Knowing religious facts? Prophecy? Speaking in tongues? In today's sermon text, Paul has a defining encounter in Ephesus with some disciples. There is much to consider in these verses.

**Two Questions to Consider:**

**1). “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (v. 1-7) [the question is asked in v. 2]**

**Context:**

- ❖ Paul is in Ephesus and discovers some disciples (v. 1).
- ❖ Paul poses an **intriguing question**, stated in verse 2. Notice their **response...** (v. 2). (**Rom. 8:9**)
- ❖ Paul's follow up question is recorded in **verse 3**: “Into what then were you baptized?”
- ❖ They said: “Into **John's** baptism.” (v. 3). Note Paul's response in v. 4.
- ❖ These disciples were then **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus** (v. 5). They were led to Jesus.
- ❖ Look carefully at **verse 6**.

**2). “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” (v. 11-20) [the question is asked in v. 14]**

**Context:**

- ❖ God was working in **extraordinary ways** through Paul (v. 11-12).
- ❖ Some itinerant **Jewish exorcists** invoked the name of Jesus (v. 13-14). Sceva the Jewish high priest.
- ❖ What did the evil spirit **say** (v. 15)? The demon did not know Sceva's sons.
- ❖ What did the evil spirit **do** (v. 16)?
- ❖ Identified **outcomes** (v. 17-20):
  - 1). This became **known** (v. 17).
  - 2). **Fear** fell upon them all; the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled (v. 17).
  - 3). **Many who were believers** confessed and divulged their **godless** practices (v. 18).
  - 4). Those who **practiced magic arts** **burned their books**- 50,000 pieces of silver in value (v. 19).
  - 5). The **Word of the Lord** continued to increase and prevail mightily (v. 20).
  - 6). The **cleansed** church became a **powerful** church-growing and spreading God's Word (v. 20).