



Sometimes Christians have the privilege of sharing the good news with those who know very little about the Gospel message. Other times, we fill in some major gaps for people who misunderstand the Gospel. Today's teaching reminds us of the key role we play in the unfinished story.

The BIG TRUTH of **ACTS: The Unfinished Story** is:

Take the Gospel to the Planet in the Power of the Spirit

Here is the entire Gospel in 5 Words = **GOD, MAN, SIN, JESUS, JUDGMENT.**

Acts 19:1-7 (NET)¹ While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples there ² and said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ So Paul said, "Into what then were you baptized?" "Into John's baptism," they replied. ⁴ Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, ⁶ and when Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy.⁷ (Now there were about twelve men in all.)

Digging Deeper

He found some **disciples** there ² and said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They replied, "No, **we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.**"

These men are called **disciples**. The question is: Whose disciples were they? Luke uses this term - *disciples* - for followers of Jesus in Acts, but in the prequel - the Gospel of Luke - he uses it of disciples of Pharisees (Luke 5:33) and of John the Baptist (Luke 5:33; 7:18-19; 11:1).

🌟 **A.T. Robertson** calls these men "*floating followers of the Baptist who drifted into Ephesus.*"¹

They **had not even heard there is a Holy Spirit**. That's strange because John spoke about the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:16 (NET)¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but one more powerful than I am is coming—I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit** and fire.

They likely had not heard about the fulfillment of what John had predicted would happen.

¹ A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Ac 19:1.

³ So Paul said, "Into what then were you baptized?" "Into John's baptism," they replied. ⁴ Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus,

These disciples knew John's **baptism of repentance**, preparing for & awaiting the long-expected Messiah to come. But they did NOT realize that **Jesus** was the Messiah who had already fulfilled what John said would occur - baptizing with the Holy Spirit & fire (judgment).

Paul shares the good news - **the ONE who was to come after** John, is **Jesus!** When the disciples of John hear about Jesus, they pledge allegiance to Jesus and **were baptized in the name of the Jesus**. And all within one swoop, they are baptized on the OUTSIDE & on the INSIDE. Baptism is an OUTSIDE picture of the INSIDE reality - death, burial, resurrection - NEW LIFE! Paul later writes the SAME people of Ephesus.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NET)¹³ And when you heard the word of truth (the gospel of your salvation)—**when you believed in Christ—you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit**,¹⁴ who is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of his glory.

Have YOU experienced that? Have you BELIEVED on Jesus - giving Him your whole life? Have you experienced the BAPTISM of the Spirit - when the Holy Spirit entered your life and you KNEW you were forever changed? THAT's what happened that day.

⁶ and when Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and **they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy**.⁷ (Now there were about twelve men in all.)

How you view both those 2 words (**tongues & prophesy**) usually communicates what camp you are in - charismatic or non-charismatic. In fact, the word we translate "spiritual gifts" (cf. 1 Cor. 12) is **charismata**, and that's where we get **charismatic** from.

Between those 2 points are varied opinions.

- 1) Some think people should have these same sort of experiences today on a regular basis.
- 2) Others think it could happen, but not very often.
- 3) Still others think God no longer moves in that way today.

Those of more charismatic persuasion often point to this passage as proof that baptism of the Spirit is something that occurs sometime AFTER responding to the Gospel - a 'second blessing' AFTER trusting Jesus.

* Hear a teaching called "**Baptism of the Holy Spirit**" (from Acts 2) you can pick up the CD in the back or watch/listen online at FellowshipofMadison.com .

Tongues: a known language that was unknown to those speaking it. God gave this supernatural ability to communicate the goodness of God in many people's common language. Other times in Acts the speaking of other languages gave proof that non-Jews (Gentiles) could trust Jesus just as Jews did (cf. Acts 15:8). A quick rule of thumb that is typically the case goes like this:

- **Tongues:** praises WHO God is and what He HAS done.
- **Prophecy:** Proclaims WHAT God says & what He WILL do.

Further, these disciples of John weren't around for the Pentecost event when Peter indicated that what the OT prophet Joel had said had now come true.

Acts 2:16-18 (NET)¹⁶ But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ *'And in the last days it will be,' God says, 'that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and **your sons and your daughters will prophesy**, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.* ¹⁸ *Even on my servants, both men and women, **I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.***

In a similar way, these men experienced "a mini-Pentecost"² - empowered to share the Gospel of Jesus with other culture and languages. These men had also been empowered to...

Take the Gospel to the Planet in the Power of the Spirit

And so here we have 12 men who knew of GOD, MAN, SIN, and JUDGMENT but had not yet heard of the missing piece - **JESUS**.

QUESTION: Who will take on the task today? Who is willing to do the work to learn WHY you believe WHAT you believe? **Will YOU be a part of the unfinished story...to take the Gospel to the Planet in the Power of the Spirit?**



- 1) **Open the Scriptures and see WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus says** (read Gospel of John)
- 2) **Seek out someone to answer your questions & show you how to share.**
- 3) **Ask the Lord & trust the Lord to use you.**

☀️ **Josh McDowell** *"My heart cannot rejoice in what my mind rejects."*

² David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009), 532.