

## **"The MSWSBA Messenger" May 2016- The Holy Spirit Upon Us In Ministry**

Acts 19:1-7 *"And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 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." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." 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." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all."*

In Acts 19:1-7 the Holy Spirit came upon a group of people and they spoke in tongues upon the laying on of the hands by an Apostle, this time Paul. One can attempt to use this occurrence to say that the speaking of tongues must be a necessity of the Holy Spirit. Others can argue here that this shows it to be necessary for baptism to take place before one can receive the Holy Spirit. It is imperative to notice, however, that these were disciples of John the Baptist. As the prophecy of Jesus (and thesis statement for Acts) from Acts 1:8 was fulfilled, the people spoke in tongues in languages that were recognizable to bystanders in the presence of one of the apostles. This occurred in accordance with the fulfillment of Acts 1:8 as the Gospel reached Jerusalem and Judea (ch. 2), Samaria (ch. 9), and the ends of the earth (ch. 10) in order to give visible evidence that each group (Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles) was to be united into one body of Christ so that there would be no division. There is no other record in the Bible of this occurring at the baptism of the Holy Spirit other than here. John had come and was baptizing with water, but he prophesied that one greater would come after him who would baptize with water and the Spirit. What we see happening here is evidence of the fulfillment of the prophecy of John the Baptist. The greater one has come and that greater one is Jesus. Once they were baptized in His name, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues. This gave visible evidence that the baptism of Jesus is greater than the baptism of John and the disciples of John were now disciples of Jesus and part of the church body. This occurrence also makes illegitimate any division between disciples of John and disciples of Jesus. John's purpose had been fulfilled in preparing the way for Jesus and now it is time to follow Jesus like the Jewish, Samaritan, and Gentile Christians. It is interesting to note here, that there were about 12 men in all here (v. 7). Twelve was the common number of disciples that a Jewish Rabbi would have at one time. It could be argued that this number symbolizes that John's ministry has been fulfilled and that it is no longer legitimate to be disciples of John rather than disciples of Jesus. As John stated in his own words "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

It is interesting to note on this occurrence that these disciples of John were a product of the preaching of Apollos before he had been taught fully about the work of Christ. These people had responded to the power of the preaching of the Scriptures, yet there was something missing. This goes to point out that the preaching of the Word is powerful and in fact imperative in the mission strategy of the church but the Holy Spirit is necessary to bring life. This once again reflects Ezekiel 37 where Ezekiel had preached to the bones and the flesh had come upon them as they stood as an exceedingly great army, yet there was no breath in them (Ezekiel 37:8). It ultimately took an act of the Holy Spirit for the dead to be raised to life and so in this instance with the Ephesian twelve it took an act of the Holy Spirit to bring new life into them. As we look forward to all of the summer ministries that are quickly approaching, let's pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit to be working ahead of us and through us as we proclaim the Gospel to lost people and as we seek to revitalize our own souls and be nourished by the washing of the water of the Word of God. If you are in Christ the Holy Spirit is upon you. Let's pray for awareness of His presence and leading.

Chris Kuenzle- DOM MSWSBA

## How to Contact your DOM

**Phone:** 573-406-9691

**Email:**

[mswdom@marktwain.net](mailto:mswdom@marktwain.net)

**Office Hours:**

@ FBC Ewing 9:00am- 1:00pm

## Remember to Pray for our churches seeking a Pastor

- Wyaconda Baptist Church
- South Wyaconda Baptist Church
- FBC LaGrange

## Disaster Relief Kitchen Help Needed

We are looking for two more workers that can work in the Disaster relief kitchen to feed children during the Southern Baptist Convention June 11-15.

## Camp Workers Needed

Crafts leader

Male and Female Cabin Leaders



## Pray For Your Pastor!

"Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel." Ephesians 6:19

## Upcoming Events

MAY

**19**

THU

### WMU Trip to Des Moines

Trip to Des Moines to help at the Friendship Baptist Center. Contact Mary Ann Lillard for more information at 573-853-4507.

MAY

**21**

SAT

### Armed Forces Day

MAY

**22**

SUN

### Trinity Sunday (1st Sunday After Pentecost)

MAY

**25**

WED

### MSWSBA MESSENGER

#### Newsletter Article Deadline

E-mail articles or news items to DOM, at [mswdom@marktwain.net](mailto:mswdom@marktwain.net).

MAY

**30**

MON

### Memorial Day