The Holy Spirit and the Believer

Acts 19:1-7 plus other passages

A. Paul encountered some disciples of John. 19:1-7

- 1. Paul found some learners. 1-3
 - a. The find. 1
 - b. The dialogue. 2-3
- 2. Paul explained about John and Jesus. 4
 - a. John baptized with a baptism of repentance.
 - b. He told people to believe into the One coming after him.
 - c. That is, into Jesus.
- 3. The learners responded. (They were baptized into the name of Jesus.) 5
- 4. The Holy Spirit arrived. 6
 - a. Paul having laid his hands on them,
 - b. the Holy Spirit came on them.
 - c. They were continually speaking in tongues
 - d. and they were prophesying.
- 5. The number of men: about twelve. 7
- 6. Observations
 - a. These people had made a positive response toward God in the past, even though they didn't have all the facts.
 - b. Always make (and encourage) a positive response toward God.

B. What was going on here?

- 1. Acts is a book of transitions.
- 2. When and how was the Holy Spirit received in Acts?
 - a. (2:1-13; 8:12-17; 10:34-38; 19:1-7)
 - b. A = In differing circumstances.
- 3. Evidences of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts:
 - a. 2:1-13. Noise, fire, tongues, preaching

- b. 8:12-17. No evidences stated.
- c. 10:34-38. Tongues, exalting God.
- d. 19:1-7. Tongues, prophesying.
- e. Conclusion: It is difficult to make hard and fast rules in the book of Acts. It is a transitional book.

C. What do we know about the Holy Spirit today?

- 1. All Christians possess the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:9b; 1 Cor. 6:19
- 2. All Christians have been baptized by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:13
- 3. The Holy Spirit gives every Christian a spiritual gift. 1 Cor. 12:7, 11 (A special, God-given ability to serve Him)
- 4. Not all Christians speak in tongues. 1 Cor. 12:30
- 5. Therefore speaking in tongues cannot be the universal sign of possessing the Holy Spirit or of being baptized by the Holy Spirit.
- 6. What is my responsibility in regard to the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 5:18. A = To be filled with the Spirit.
- 7. What will it look like if I am NOT filled with the Holy Spirit? Galatians 5:19-21
- 8. What will it look like if I AM filled with the Holy Spirit? Galatians 5:16, 22-23

D. Conclusion

- 1. Use the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you to serve God.
- 2. Allow the Holy Spirit to control you so you become the kind of person God wants you to be.

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