



April 6, 2016

Acts 19:1-22

Pastor Gary Hamrick

### Exegetical Study

1. **Acts 19:1-7** – *“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’ ‘John’s baptism,’ they replied. Paul said, ‘John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.”*
  - a. The Journey and the Ministry
    - i. Paul ministered in Ephesus two years.
    - ii. Ephesus
      1. Ephesus was situated on the Aegean Sea.
      2. The first century population of Ephesus was about 300,000 to 500,000 people.
      3. At this point in time, Ephesus was the third most populated city in the Roman Empire.
      4. A number of major trade routes passed through Ephesus at that time.
      5. Today, it’s just a small Turkish village named Ayasaluk.
    - iii. Artemis
      1. Ephesus was well-known as the center for worship of Artemis.
        - a. The Greek name was Artemis.
        - b. The Roman name was Diana.
      2. Artemis was the goddess of the moon and the hunt, as well as being the goddess of sex and fertility.

3. There were approximately 1,000 male and female prostitutes employed in service at the temple.
  4. The temple of Artemis was considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
    - a. The temple was 425 feet long, 220 feet wide, and there were 127 pillars, each 60 feet tall.
  5. British archaeologist John T. Wood discovered the site of the temple under twenty feet of sand on December 31, 1869.
- iv. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
1. Paul met *“about twelve men”* in Ephesus who were Believers.
  2. Paul wanted to know if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed.
    - a. Pastor Gary said, “Why [was that] an important question? ... When you try to understand the third person of the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - [you need to know that] they are all co-equal, and co-eternal, and they have always co-existed. ... Some, in their understanding of the Holy Spirit, would say to you that when you receive Christ and when you get saved, when you get born again, you get all there is concerning the Holy Spirit. Now, I will agree that Scripture teaches that you can’t separate the God-head, so if you do receive Christ you are going to get God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, but what we need to understand is that there is a difference between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. I don’t say this because it’s my idea; I say this because it’s what Scripture teaches. [Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection and he breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit.] At that moment, in [John 20:22](#), for all intents and purposes, Jesus’ disciples were born again. At what point did [Jesus’] disciples believe that he was the Messiah? Well, the argument could be made [that in] [Matthew 16](#), when Peter was the first one to confess [that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God]. Okay, they understood who he was, but at what point did they actually put their faith in him, [and] in the finished work of Christ after he had died on the cross? [This] happened in [John 20:22](#). Jesus appeared to them; they then believed in the resurrected Lord; they then [understood] the fullness of the whole message of salvation [in] their hearts and minds. ... They [were] born

again, they [became] Christians, and they received the Holy Spirit. But, as I said, if that [was] everything concerning the Holy Spirit, then why would [Jesus] say again in [[Acts 1:4-5, 8](#)... before he ascended into heaven], 'Wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit'? ... You can be saved and have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but not the fullness, the fullness of God's Spirit. ... [This] is the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, [concerning greater power to resist temptation, a greater heart for the lost and unsaved, and an overall empowering for life and ministry]. ... We are talking about the overflowing work of God's Spirit. ... [This account is] evidence of a second work."

- i. [John 20:22](#) - *"And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' "*
- ii. [Matthew 16:15-16](#) - *" 'But what about you?' [Jesus] asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' "*
- iii. [Acts 1:4-5, 8](#) - *"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' "*

### 3. Three Baptisms

#### a. Baptism of John - [Acts 19:3](#)

- i. This was a pre-salvation baptism by water in anticipation of Messiah.
- ii. John always pointed people to the Messiah, the one who would come after him.
- iii. [John 1:29](#) - *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' "*
- iv. This was baptism of repentance and it signified a cleansing of sin.

#### b. Baptism of Jesus - [Acts 19:5](#)

- i. This is post-salvation baptism by water identifying with Messiah.
- ii. This is what we practice at Cornerstone Chapel:

Believer's baptism.

- iii. Going under the water identifies us with the death of Christ, and coming up out of the water identifies us with the resurrection of Christ.
  - iv. This baptism is not a requirement for salvation because nothing needs to be added to belief in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.
  - v. Christians should be baptized in obedience to the Lord.
  - vi. **Matthew 28:19** - *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."*
- c. Baptism of the Holy Spirit - **Acts 19:6**
- i. This is post-salvation filling of God's Spirit.
4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a formula
- a. In **Acts 19:6** Paul placed his hands on the Believers, and the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.
  - b. In **Acts 10** Peter did not lay his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon all of the Believers.
  - c. In **Acts 8** when the people of Samaria believed, Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit, but there is no reference to the Believers speaking in tongues.
  - d. Pastor Gary said, "We have to be very careful not to make a formula out of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. [It doesn't have to come with the laying on of hands, and it doesn't have to be accompanied by speaking in tongues, and it has to be this way, or it has to be that way.] ... Just be open to the filling of the Holy Spirit."

2. **Acts 19:8-12** - *"Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them."*

a. The Way

- i. This was a reference to Christianity.

b. Extraordinary miracles

- i. A handkerchief could also be a leather headband.<sup>1</sup>
- ii. Pastor Gary said, “The only thing that we have to be careful [with] is that it [wasn’t] the handkerchiefs, and it [wasn’t] the aprons that [had] the power. [In [Mark 5:25-34](#), a woman touched the hem of Jesus’ garment and was healed. Jesus told the woman that her faith had made her well; it wasn’t his cloak.] There was nothing magical about the handkerchiefs or the aprons. What happens is that people sometimes, if you will, need a little jumpstart to their faith... so tangible things help... [But, don’t make idols or statues or icons out of things.] ... The healing comes from the Lord; it is not any ‘sacred trinket’ or good luck charm or a rabbit’s foot on the end of a keychain!”

3. [Acts 19:13-22](#) – *“Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, ‘In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.’ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. [One day] the evil spirit answered them, ‘Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?’ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. ‘After I have been there,’ he said, ‘I must visit Rome also.’ He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.”*

a. Sceva’s sons

- i. “... certain vagabond Jews, exorcists...” (KJV)
- ii. These men were not believers.
- iii. These men were amazed by the incredible things Paul was doing, and they wanted to exercise the same power.
- iv. Their intent was to make money by performing exorcisms.
- v. These men tried their hand at casting out demons, and they got the surprise and thrashing of their lives!
  1. Pastor Gary said, “When someone is under demonic power, they do have superhuman strength.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong=G4676&t=NIV>

- b. Sorcerers changed their minds!
  - i. A drachma was a silver coin that was worth one day's wage.
  - ii. Fifty thousand drachmas is approximately ten million dollars in today's money!
  - iii. Pastor Gary asked this rhetorical question: “[What are you holding onto that is a hindrance to your walk with Christ; what is it that you need to get rid of]?”

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the 1984 New International Version (NIV)

