

“The Holy Spirit”  
Acts 19:1-7  
(Preached at Trinity, August 29, 2007)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. At this point we find Paul leaving Corinth and traveling to Ephesus. Upon arriving he comes upon a certain number of disciples—**Verse 7** tells us there were 12. Paul asks them if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed. They responded that they had never even heard of such a thing.
2. Like Apollos in the previous chapter, it is doubtful that these were true believers. They had only been baptized with the baptism of John.
  - A. Like Apollos, these disciples did not know the baptism of Jesus. They knew only John's baptism which was a baptism of repentance. The Baptism of Christ points to the Gospel.
  - B. In other words, their knowledge of the Gospel was deficient. They knew of Christ but they did not understand the nature of the death and resurrection of Christ.
  - C. John's baptism was a baptism of preparation. John's baptism looked forward to the atonement of Christ. Christian baptism looks back to the atonement.  
Note the message of John the Baptist in Matthew 3  
**Matthew 3:1-3** – “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, <sup>2</sup> And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. <sup>3</sup> For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”
3. This passage and others in Acts has caused much discussion and controversy with regard to receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Charismatics use this verse as a proof text that you can receive the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation – a second blessing, and that this will be evidenced by the speaking of tongues.
4. Tonight I want to bring some clarity to this controversy.
  - I. First, we have to understand the nature of the Book of Acts
    - A. Luke was primarily concerned with writing a history of the church rather than a doctrinal discourse
      1. By the time Luke wrote Acts many of Paul's epistles were being circulated. Luke would have had an understanding of doctrine but his primary purpose is to write as a historian, not a theologian.
      2. Because of the wealth of historical material Luke is forced to be very brief – often not giving us all of the information we might desire to know. In the Book of Acts he is covering a period of about 33 years.
    - B. The Book of Acts records the church in transition. It was a period of great change for the Church.
      1. It records the transition from the synagogue to the church

2. It records the transition from Jews and Gentiles as separate groups to the unity of the body of Christ
3. It records the transition from the law to grace – Old Covenant passing away to New Covenant coming to its fulness.
4. It records the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon those who had received Christ

## II. The initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- A. We have seen in the past that the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred according to the groups outlined by our Lord in **Chapter 1:8**  
**Acts 1:8** – "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
1. In **Acts 2:14** on the Day of Pentecost the Jews received the Holy Spirit – "Jerusalem and all Judaea"
  2. In **Acts 8:14-17** – the Samaritans – "and in Samaria"
  3. In **Acts 10:44-45** – the Gentiles – "uttermost part of the earth"
- B. In each of these passages Luke is recording the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit. After this initial outpouring believers were baptized with the Holy Spirit upon conversion. This is what we are seeing here

## III. Some Clarification on the different actions of the Holy Spirit upon the Christian

- A. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit – what we are seeing here
1. We can be Baptized with the Holy Spirit only once
  2. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the act of Christ by which He places us into His body – it occurs at conversion  
**1 Corinthians 12:13** – "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."
  3. At this time Holy Spirit indwells us and begins His work of grace in our lives.
- B. The Bible also describes the sealing of the Holy Spirit
1. This is also a one time act which takes place at conversion
  2. It can be compared with the signet ring of a king  
three purposes: to authenticate as genuine  
to render secure, and to denote ownership
  3. The HS in a believer is God's seal upon the believer that God has accepted him - We are His
  4. It is also the earnest of our inheritance  
**Ephesians 1:13-14** – "In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."  
**2 Corinthians 1:21** – "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; <sup>22</sup> Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."  
**2 Corinthians 5:5** – "Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit."

- C. The Bible also speaks of being filled with the Holy Spirit in the sense of a fullness of the Holy Spirit's influence upon a person's life
1. This is different from the initial filling of the Holy Spirit upon a new believer
  2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a continuous submission to the leadership and control of the Holy Spirit – with our thoughts, our words, our actions
- IV. Remember, the Book of Acts is a record of transition
- A. Luke is recording the first time the Holy Spirit has come to indwell man
1. He has recorded it with regard to the three man groups given by Christ  
Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles
  2. After the initial outpouring upon these groups all who believe immediately received the Holy Spirit. We can see this in this passage tonight
- B. Luke also records a certain effect this initial outpouring produced – they spoke in tongues.
1. This initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit was a great demonstration of God acting on behalf of His people. The church had now received the power for its mission.
  2. There was outward evidence of this great power  
At Pentecost it could be both seen and heard.  
Seen – tongues of fire  
**Acts 2:3** – “And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.”  
Heard –  
**Acts 2:2** – “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.”
  3. God was manifesting the great power of the Holy Spirit upon His people  
Some received the gift of tongues, some of prophecy, etc. It wasn't given to all.
  4. The main purpose of tongues was to validate the Gospel before the Jews  
**1 Corinthians 14:22** – “Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not”
  5. This evidence is no longer needed today. Today God's Spirit fills the new believer at the moment of his conversion. God's Word has become the basis of faith.  
**Romans 10:17** – “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- V. The unique nature of God giving His Holy Spirit
- A. It is a New Covenant blessing
1. The Holy Spirit was promised in the OT  
**Isaiah 32:15** – “Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.”  
**Ezekiel 39:29** – “Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.”

**Joel 2:28** – “And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:”

2. The OT promises were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost  
**Acts 2:16** – “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:”
3. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be sent forth who would teach us and enable us to understand the truth.  
**John 14:26** But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

VI. What about the difference between OT and NT and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit upon the saints of God?

- A. In the OT the Holy Spirit came upon men for particular purposes for a particular duration.
  1. We can see this when the seventy elders prophesied before Moses  
**Numbers 11:24-25** – “And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle. <sup>25</sup> And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that *was* upon him, and gave *it* unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, *that*, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.”
  2. We can see this with Saul –  
God put His Spirit upon Saul that Saul might be anointed and empowered to sit as king over Israel  
**1 Samuel 10:6** – “And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.”  
**1 Samuel 10:9-10** – “And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.”
  3. God then withdrew His Spirit from Saul and placed Him on David  
**1 Samuel 16:13-14** – “Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. <sup>14</sup> But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”
  4. Matthew Henry – “the Spirit of God came upon him, strongly and suddenly (so the word signifies), but not so as to rest and abide upon him. It came on so as to go off quickly.”
- B. The Holy Spirit was still the agent of salvation
  1. The Holy Spirit was the agent of convicting the OT saint of his sins

2. The OT saints still needed regeneration – to have circumcised hearts.
3. But the OT saints did not have the indwelling Spirit – this wouldn't take place until Pentecost.
4. Jesus foretold this  
**John 14:16-17** – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup> *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

#### Conclusion:

1. What effect does the indwelling Spirit have upon us today?
2. The Holy Spirit Illuminates our Minds – beginning with regeneration and continuing our whole life. He testifies of Christ  
**John 14:26** – “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
3. He testifies that we are the children of God  
**Galatians 4:6** – “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”
4. The Holy Spirit is the Source of Holiness
  - A. Paul speaks of the “fruit of the Spirit” – **Gal. 5:22**  
**See Gal. 5:17-25**
  - B. The Holy Spirit seizes control of our minds, hearts, and wills just as alcohol seizes control of the mind in a natural sense – **See Eph. 5:18 ff.**  
**Ephesians 5:18** – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”
  - C. The Holy Spirit frees us from the servitude to sin  
 He gives us the power to live holy lives – we see the Law as good and holy
5. The Holy Spirit gives us the power for service  
**Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.  
**1 Corinthians 12:4** – “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”
6. The Holy Spirit enlivens the affections of the believer towards God.
  - A. He enables us to comprehend the love of Christ which allows us to taste of the fullness of God.  
**Ephesians 3:16-19** – “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; <sup>17</sup> That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; <sup>19</sup> And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”  
 This enables us to be filled with the fullness of God
  - B. He draws us to ever increasing worship  
 Jesus told the woman at the well that true worshippers would worship the Father in Spirit and in truth
    1. He makes the songs of praise sweet

2. He makes the Scriptures rich
7. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?  
**NAS Romans 8:9** – “But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”  
Do you submit to Him and follow His leadership or do you resist Him like the heathen  
**Acts 7:51** – “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.”  
**Ephesians 4:30** – “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”