



Have You Received The Holy Ghost...?

“He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost” (Acts 19:2).

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“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. 7 And all the men were about twelve.” (Acts 19:1-7).

What a great question! Great questions deserve correct answers. The answer and how you answered the question will set the scene for the next steps. Evading questions usually result in losing the blessings associated with correct answers (Matthew 21:25-27)

The event of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2 took place around 30 AD, shortly after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. The event in Acts 19, where the Ephesians received the Holy Spirit, is generally estimated to have occurred during Paul's third missionary journey, roughly around 53-54 AD.

This means that approximately 23-24 years had passed between these two events. It's quite remarkable that the Ephesian believers had not heard of the Holy Spirit within that period. This emphasises the fact that church members only experience what they are taught. Teachings on healing, faith, spiritual gifts, prosperity etc. pave the way for believers to experience their manifestation in their personal lives.

Acts 19:1-7 recounts the Apostle Paul's encounter with a group of disciples in Ephesus. Here are the key points from this passage:

“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” (Acts 19:6).

- 1) Paul arrives in Ephesus and meets some disciples (vs 1).
- 2) Paul asks them if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They respond that they have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit (vs 2).
- 3) Paul inquires about their baptism, and they say they were baptised into John's baptism (vs 3). This question is important and reveals that Paul believed that if they had been correctly baptised as instructed by Jesus in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost, they would have heard of the Holy Spirit at that time, even if they had not had a preaching or Bible Study on that topic.
- 4) Paul explains that John's baptism was a baptism of repentance and that he told the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus (vs 4).
- 5) Upon hearing this, the disciples are baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus (vs 5) - implying in the authority Jesus gave to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 6) When Paul lays his hands on them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and they begin speaking in tongues and prophesying (vs 6).
- 7) The passage concludes by noting that there were about twelve men in all (vs 7).

This event highlights the importance of understanding and receiving the Holy Spirit in the early Christian community.

Paul's question is personalised to you and me today. Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? If not yet, then today is your day of appointment to receive all that Calvary purchased for us.