

Faith Christian Fellowship
September 2, 2017
Have You Heard of the Holy Ghost?

TEXT: Acts 19:1-7

We live in a world gone mad, but that has really not changed much. There are unsaved people and saved people. The devil is still alive, and people still perish for lack of knowledge. We as the church in this hour face huge challenges, but nothing to compare to what the early church faced, yet they turned the world upside down. We see the Islamic move, the racist division, the homosexual lobby, and the anti-God progressive / socialist movement joining forces to stifle and intimidate the church. They work well together, as they have the same father.

I believe the biggest threat to the Church is not from without, but from within. The lack of backbone is certainly an issue, as we face the challenges listed, but the biggest issue is not doctrinal, but practical. Most of the Church has not heard that there is a Holy Spirit. He is a doctrine, but not a Person. The only signs we see are on the billboard by the road. Our experience is determined by the sound department, not the prayer department. Holy Spirit, You are welcome here!!!

Have you heard? These folks in Ephesus hadn't. 3 things in this wonderful tale that we need: Repentance, Conversion, and Power.

1) Repentance.

- a) Repentance comes from a Greek word "metanoeo,"
 - i) from metá, denoting change of place or condition, and noéō (G3539), to exercise the mind, think, comprehend. Theologically, it involves regret or sorrow, accompanied by a true change of heart toward God.
 - ii) noéō; To perceive with thought coming into consciousness as distinct from the perception of senses.
 - iii) **Not simply changing your mind, but based on sober reflection, changing your manner of thinking – a paradigm shift:**
- b) New Testament repentance is two-fold
 - i) Luke 24:47 – repentance and remission of sins.
 - ii) Hebrews 6:1 – repentance from dead works.
- c) God wants our attitude to be conformed to His: He hates sin, and He is not impressed by our religious works (They stink).
- d) "God loves you" and "Living in grace" are not licenses to live any way your flesh wants to.
- e) Some think Christians never need to repent after conversion. Paul, Peter, and the resurrected Christ failed to get the memo..

i) 2 Corinthians 7:8-10 2 / Timothy 2:24-26 / Acts 8:20-23 / Revelation 2:5 / Revelation 2:16 / Revelation 3:18-20

- f) Let's take a moment to get our attitude right – hate sin, lean on grace. **If you need to repent, then do it!!!** Luke 18:13 / 1 John 1:9

2) Conversion

- a) As soon as they heard that the Messiah had come, they believed and were baptized. Dictionary.com says conversion is "change in character, form, or function. spiritual change from sinfulness to righteousness."
- b) Notice Paul's description of what happens when we do that : Romans 6:4-6 / 2 Corinthians 5:17 / 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- c) You need a know so salvation: God on the inside or nothing at all. John 3:5-7 'You must be born again.'
- d) Reality check: Have you been converted? **Are you born of the Spirit?**

3) Powered up!!!!!!

- a) There is a place after believing, after, conversion, after baptism, when the Spirit on the inside comes over us on the outside and empowers us for life and service.
- b) Acts 1:8 - power = supernatural ability
 - i) Supernatural Ability to **Pray** - Romans 8:26-27 (1 Corinthians 14:2, 4)
 - ii) Supernatural Ability to **Praise** - 1 Corinthians 14:14-17 / Ephesians 5:18-19
 - iii) Supernatural Ability to **Produce** - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.
- c) **Are you powered up?** Let's quit being self – centered and get God-powered. Luke 11:11-13

**"If you then, being evil,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your heavenly Father
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"**