



**PRELUDE TO PENTECOST
HAVE YOU RECEIVED SINCE YOU BELIEVED?
DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Acts 19:1-7 ESV

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” ⁴ And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Opening Thoughts:

- The baptism of the Spirit should be just as commonplace and championed in the church as salvation.
- The Ephesians first receive Jesus and are baptized on the spot. Then Paul lays hands on them and they are baptized in the Spirit and begin to speak in tongues and prophesy.
- Pentecost had come to Ephesus, bringing revival!
- In what ways does the baptism in the Holy Spirit empower believers to live the abundant life Jesus died to give them? If you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, how has your life been changed by His power in your life?

Key Takeaway: We need a fresh Pentecost.

1) Because Pentecost is the Full Gospel (verse 2)

- The modern church has made Pentecost an option for the gospel, but for Paul it was a necessity.
- Pentecostal defined: relating to or denoting any of several Christian movements and individuals emphasizing baptism in the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues, prophecy, healing, and exorcism. Would you agree that this definition should be rejected by believers? Why?
- Consider the tablets with the 10 commandments that were written by the finger of God on Mt. Sinai, how does this reveal that the Bible is Pentecostal?
- Consider Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, how does this reveal that Jesus is Pentecostal?
- Consider the believers gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, how does this reveal that the Church is Pentecostal?
- Truth: If our salvation comes without Pentecost, we are not experiencing the full gospel.

2) Because Pentecost Disrupts the Stale Spiritual Status Quo (verses 8-9)

- Read Acts 19:8-9. What happened after that day of revival in Ephesus?

- You cannot have Pentecostal presence without Pentecostal fire, and fire always means disruption.
- Pentecost offends the stubborn and stiff-necked. Who do you think were the most stubborn and stiff-necked people in the early church? How do you see that in the church today?
- Pentecost offends the sophisticated and intellectual unbelievers. Why do you think this is so? Were you ever offended by the Pentecostal experience?
- Pentecost offends the critics and complainers. Why do you think people want status quo?
- Jesus was baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. What about you? Have you not only received the Holy Spirit's Presence, but have you yielded to His Pentecostal power?

3) **Because Pentecost Shakes a Sinful Secular System (verses 23-29)**

- Read Acts 19:23-29. What similarities with the Ephesians culture do you see in today's culture? Consider the recent elections, rioting, proposed Equality Act, among other things. Regardless of the question, the answer is Pentecost.
- Pentecost allows no celebrities (idols). There is no fame in the midst of Pentecost.
- Read Acts 4:13-14. What was the cost of Pentecost? Is it still the same today? What have others said about those that live the Pentecostal experience?
- Pentecost allows no compromise (see James 4:4).
- Pentecost never goes on clearance. What price did you pay to experience Pentecost?
- Truth: It is easier to visit a revival than it is to be burdened by revival.

4). **Because Pentecost is as necessary in the last days as it was in the first days (verse 6)**

- Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is simple:
Repent and believe (Acts 2:38)
Ask with expectation (Luke 11:9-13)
Tarry until you receive (Luke 24:49)

Application:

- **Takeaway: We need a fresh Pentecost.**
- Do you need a fresh Pentecost?