

# THE EPHESUS OUTPOURING

(How God Empowered The Growing Disciples)  
Acts 19:1-7



## PROGRESS IS MADE

- ◆ John's Baptism – Repentance
- ◆ Water Baptism – Obedience
- ◆ The Holy Spirit Baptism – Power

*“Have you received the Holy Spirit’s infilling power since you believed?” (Acts 19:2)*

Bill Kirk

# “THE EPHESUS OUTPOURING”

**Text:** Acts 19:1-7  
**Subject:** God's Way To Be Encouraged And Growing

## Introduction

- ◆ Acts 19 is one piece of a great spiritual pie.
- ◆ It reveals God's working in a spiritual way.
- ◆ It leads us to spiritual progress in our hearts.

**Question:** What's the context of Acts 19?

**Answer:** The context is this:

1. Acts 1 records Pentecostal Preparation.
2. Acts 2 records Pentecostal experience and results.
3. Acts 3-4 records Pentecostal power and persecution.
4. Acts 5 records Pentecostal cleansing in the church.
5. Acts 6, the first Pentecostal deacons.
6. Acts 7 & 8, Pentecostal preaching and forgiveness,
7. Acts 9, Saul's conversion and divine healing.
8. Acts 10, Gentiles baptized in the Spirit.
9. Acts 11, the new center of Christianity begins at Antioch.
10. Acts 12, persecution at Jerusalem with Peter in Jail.

## **(And Then Paul's 3 Great Missionary Journeys)**

- ◆ Paul's first mission is (chapters 13:1 – 14:28)
- ◆ Paul's second mission is (chapters 15:36 - 18:22)
- ◆ Paul's third mission is (chapters 18:23 – 21:17)

## **(Its Where We Pick Up Today)**

**Question:** What is Paul doing in Acts 18:23?

**Answer:** He is doing two things that speaks to all of us:

- #1. He is resting before starting out on the third journey:
  - ◆ The words in 18:23 “Spent some time there” mean, Paul was getting some R&R in Antioch.
- #2. He is purposeful as he heads out on journey #3:

**Question:** What is Paul's purpose as God uses Him?

**Answer:** Acts 18:23 “After spending some time in Antioch (resting), Paul departs and passes through Galatia and Phrygia, visiting the believers, **encouraging them and helping them to grow in the Lord**”.

**Question:** Why is God sending Paul out the 3<sup>rd</sup> time?

**Answer:** Because God wants you (His people, His bride, His church ) to experience two things.

- #1. He wants you to be **encouraged!**
- #2. He wants you to be **growing!**

**Question:** What is God's will and purpose for Paul's ministry?

**Question:** Why is God sending Paul to different people groups?

**Question:** What does God want to do in your heart today?

- #1. Spiritual Encouragement (and) #2. Spiritual Growth

**Question:** How does God **encourage** and **grow** people in Acts 19?

**Answer:** This is what God does:

- #1. In Acts 18:24, Apollos arrives in Ephesus.
- #2. In Acts 18:25, Apollos teaches the Word of God.
- #3. In Acts 18:26, Apollos is taught himself by Priscilla and Aquila.
- #4. In Acts 18:27 & 28, Apollos is invited to Corinth (so he leaves Ephesus).

**(And In Acts 19:1)**

“And it came about, that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus and found some disciples.”

**Question:** Where is Paul in Acts 19?

**Answer:** He's in Ephesus.

**Question:** Why is Paul there?

**Answer:** God wants to encourage and grow disciples.

**Question:** What is Paul's message (or God's message) that encourages and grows the heart?

**Answer:** God wants us to experience 3 things that will encourage and grow a spiritually healthy person:

**(All 3 Involve The Word Baptism)**

**I. John's Baptism (Vs. 2-4)**

**Question:** What were Paul's first words to the 12 disciples in Ephesus?

**Answer:** Acts 19:2 “Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? And they said to him “No, we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit”.

**Question:** What is Paul asking?

**Answer:** Paul isn't asking these disciples if they possess the regenerating Spirit that all believers possess at salvation.

- ◆ He is asking them if they have received the Holy Spirit in His infilling of power.
- ◆ These disciples had been converted through the ministry of Apollos.
- ◆ And, Paul (rather God) has more for them.

**Question:** What does Paul then ask them?

**Answer:** (V. 3), “Unto what then were you baptized”? And they said, “The baptism of John”

**Question:** What does Paul say in v. 4?

**Answer:** (V. 4), “Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance”

**Question:** Pastor, what is the baptism of repentance?

**Answer:** It is the desire to turn from sin and turn to God with all your heart!

**Question:** What's the problem?

**Answer:** The problem was – that John's message was “Repent of sin” but John himself could not forgive sin.

- ◆ So Paul says in V. 4, “Believe on Him which should come after John, that is, on Christ Jesus”.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ These believers in Ephesus had followed the baptismal procedure of John.
- ◆ They were willing to repent of every sin.
- ◆ But God (through Paul) tells them what John had already said in Matthew 3:11:

“I baptize you in water for repentance, but Jesus Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”

**Question:** What is John's baptism?

**Answer:** It is one of Repentance!

**Question:** What does it mean to repent?

**Answer:** It means to say “God you're right, I am wrong”.

- ◆ “God, I deserve judgment, but I ask for mercy”.
- ◆ “God, you have not failed me, I have failed you”.
- ◆ “God, I ask you to cleanse me of every sin, examine my heart, turn my heart to you, and deliver me from every besetting sin, to serve you in wholeness”.

**Question:** Why is this in Acts 19?

**Answer:** Because every encouraged and growing Christian is quick to respond with repentance toward God.

**Question:** How does repentance encourage your heart?

**Answer:** Repentance encourages the heart because the fruit of repentance is a clear conscience.

- ◆ And a clear conscience can experience the joy of the Lord. (Why?)
- ◆ Because nothing stands between you and God.

**(#1 – John’s Baptism Means Repentance)**

**II. Water Baptism (V. 5)**

**Question:** What is the fruit of true repentance?

**Answer:** Obedience

**Question:** What did the Ephesian believers do after they repented and were forgiven?

**Answer:** (V. 5), “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus”.

**Fact:** This is the only re-baptism in water in the Bible.

**Fact:** These believers who were baptized by John (for their repentance...)

...are now re-baptized in Jesus name because they exercise faith in Jesus that Jesus has forgiven them of all their sin!

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ In John’s baptism they turned from sin.
- ◆ In water baptism, again, they are now assured that Jesus has forgiven their sin and completed what John had said.

**Question:** Why is (V. 5) in your Bible?

**Answer:** To show us that the fruit of genuine repentance – is **genuine obedience**.

(I Repeat) ◆ The genuine **fruit**, of genuine **repentance**, is genuine **obedience**!

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Water baptism doesn’t save me!
- ◆ It just tells the world, the church, and the Lord, that I’m coming out of the water to live in obedience to God in every area of my life.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ It’s possible to repent and turn from sin, **but still not surrender in obedience to God**.
- ◆ It’s possible to **stop sinning**, but not **start obeying** what God tells you in His Word.
- ◆ You can quit smoking and stop drinking and cease cursing, and quit stealing,

**(Yet Still)**

- ◆ Not obey God when it comes to praying, forgiving, tithing, serving, etc.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ God doesn’t just save you **from** something, He also saves you **to** something.
- ◆ God doesn’t just deliver you **out** of something, He delivers you **for** something.

**(In Other Words)**

#1. John’s baptism – means **Repentance**. #2. Water baptism – means **Obedience**.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ When you are genuinely saved as a Christian, man or woman – 2 things occur:
  - #1. In **repentance**, you stop some old behavior,
  - #2. In **obedience**, you begin some new behavior.

III. **The Holy Spirit Baptism (Vs. 6, 7)**

**Question:** Why did God send Paul to this group of John's disciples in Ephesus?

- ◆ In verse 2, **to ask something**,
- ◆ In verse 6, **to do something**.
- ◆ In verse 2, "Have you received the Holy Spirits infilling since you believed?"
- ◆ In verse 6, "And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." **(In Other Words)**
- ◆ Apollos could only teach as much as he knew.
- ◆ So when Paul reaches Ephesus, he is troubled:

**Question:** What is Paul troubled about?

**Answer:** Paul discovers a lack of spiritual gifts,  
Paul discovers a lack of spiritual anointing,  
Paul discovers a lack of spiritual power.

**Question:** So what does Paul do?

**Answer:** He teaches on **the baptism in the Holy Spirit**.

- ◆ Then he lays his hands on them in prayer to aid them in their faith.
- ◆ And the disciples here receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ And speak in tongues during their own personal experience of Pentecost.

**Question:** Is this an isolated experience?

**Answer:** Not at all.

**(This is the fifth time the Spirit is poured out on a group of people)**

- #1. The Jews in Jerusalem. (Acts 2)
- #2. The prayers (Acts 4:31)
- #3. The Samaritans in Samaria. (Acts 8)
- #4. The Gentiles in Caesarea. (Acts 10)
- #5. Now the disciples in Ephesus are baptized in the Holy Spirit. (In Acts 19)

**Question:** Why is this baptism so important?

**Answer:** Because we need **God's power** to do **God's work**.

**(That's Why Jesus Said In Luke 24:49)**

"Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high"

**Question:** How do you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

- #1. Understand it is a gift from God.
  - #2. Open your heart in prayer and praise to God.
  - #3. Yield yourself to the "Welling up" that takes place in your spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to flow out of you in a heavenly language.
- ◆ You do the speaking as God does the pouring out.

**(If You Want To Be Encouraged And Growing)**

- #1. **Repentance** – to turn and forsake every sin.
- #2. **Obedience** – to whatever God tells you to do.
- #3. **Power** – as you serve the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**AMEN!**  
Bill Kirk, Pastor