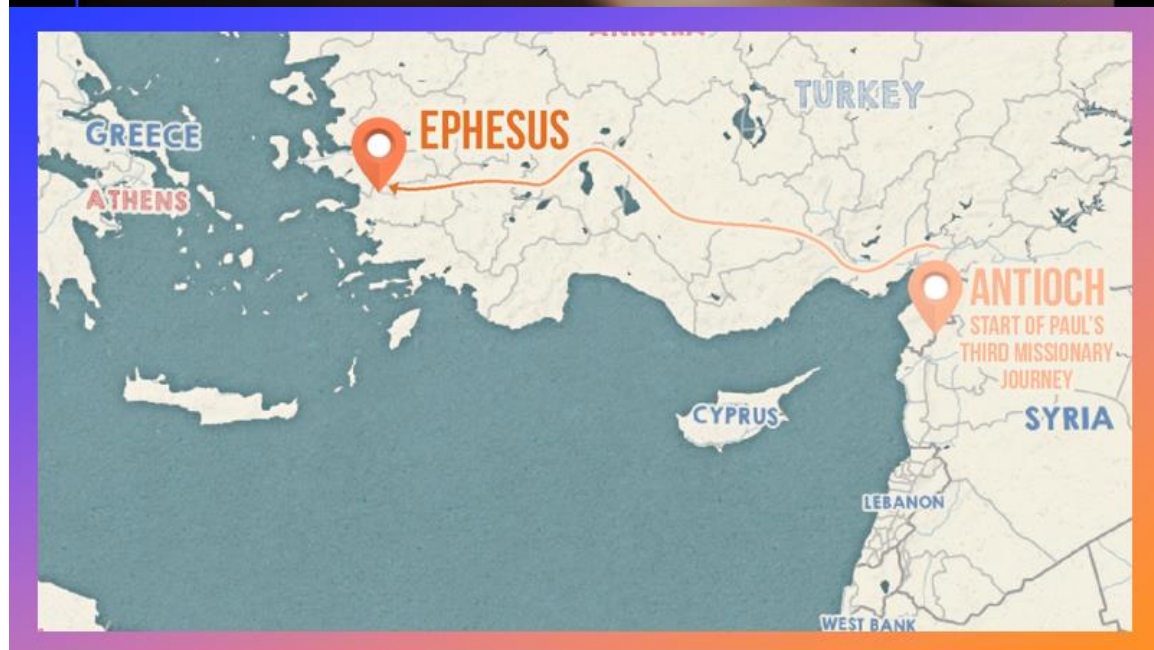


**Coffee/Question:**  
**How do you know if you have received the Holy Spirit?**



**Sooke Baptist Church**  
Sunday, July 19, 2020, 9am and 11am  
71 10 West Coast Road  
Facebook Live Stream, 9am and YouTube, 12pm



Read v.1 – who were these disciples?

Through his interactions with them, Paul sensed something was missing, which is why he asked them a very direct question.

Read v.2a

Their answer to Paul's question revealed they were not disciples of Jesus.

Read v.2b.

And so, Paul again, asked a very direct question.

Read v.3a.

We will come to this very quickly – but we need to note that in Paul’s mind, the receiving of the Holy Spirit was a baptism.  
This is an incredible image!

Read v.3b.

Their answer confirmed they were disciples of John the Baptist.

Read v.4.

**Acts 19:4**

**Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him...”**

What was the focus of John the Baptist’s ministry?  
Consider what Matthew wrote.

**Matthew 3:1-3, 5-6**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

<sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

John announced that the kingdom of God had come near.  
And the only appropriate response was to repent.  
We see from this passage that repentance is...



Repentance is a personal conviction...

...to **turn to** God by **turning away** from... whatever it is that a person has valued and treasured more than God.

Repentance is a verbal confession to God...

...where a person openly acknowledges they were wrong in their estimation of who God is and were wrong not to love and honor him and to live under his good authority.

Repentance is publicly demonstrated...

...as a person is baptized.

gotquestions.org says...

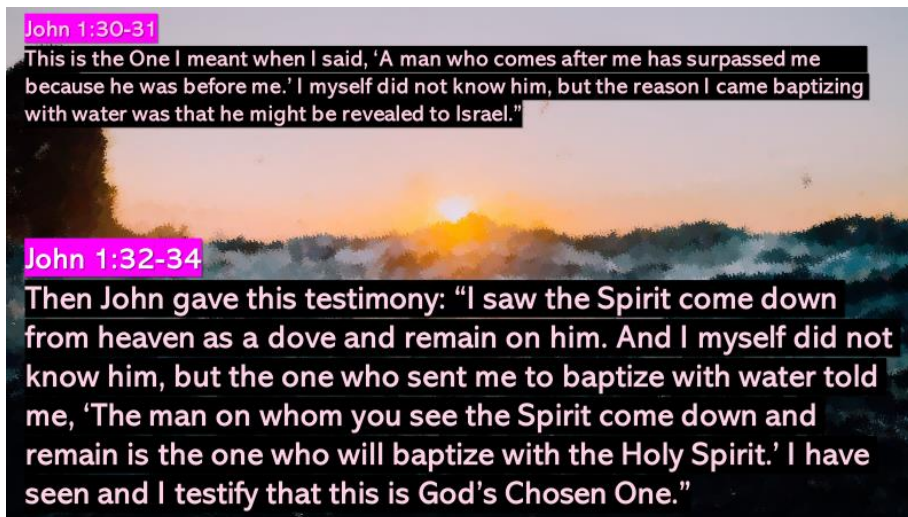
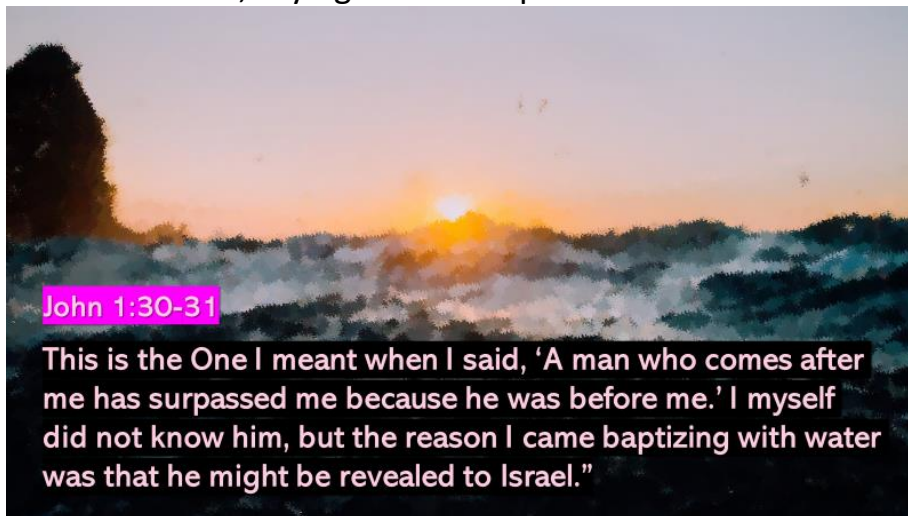


...to make people ready to perceive, to welcome, to receive God in the person of his Messiah.

What John knew of the Messiah had been revealed to him. The day after Jesus' baptism, John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said to his disciples:



How did John know this about Jesus?  
God had revealed it to him.  
John continued, saying to his disciples...



In Acts 19:4 Paul did what John had done for those who were with him the day after Jesus' baptism – he identified Jesus as the Chosen One. Look again at v.4.

**Acts 19:4**

**Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, **that is, in Jesus.**”**

Read v.5-7.

These men whose hearts had been made to perceive God’s Messiah by their repentance, believed in and received Jesus. And then in obedience to Jesus’ command they were baptized in his name.

Is there significance to the fact that Paul placed his hands on these men in order that the Holy Spirit might come on them?  
Is this how the Holy Spirit is to be received?

This is what had happened in Samaria –

**Acts 8:17-20**

**Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.**

**When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, ‘Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’**

**Peter answered, ‘May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!’”**

Something similar had happened to Paul himself.

**Acts 9:17-18**

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it.

**Placing his hands on Saul**, he said,  
'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus,  
who appeared to you on the road  
as you were coming here –  
has sent me so that you may see again  
**and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'**

Immediately, something like scales  
fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.  
**He got up and was baptized...**

Without question, it was deeply meaningful and significant for these men in Acts 19 to have Paul place his hands on them and have the Holy Spirit come upon them.

The testimony of the book of Acts is that there are times and situations, when the Spirit comes upon a person through the laying on of hands by another believer, but not always.

It happened differently at the home of Cornelius.

**Acts 10:44-46**

**While Peter was still speaking these words,  
the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the  
message.**

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles.

For they heard them speaking in other languages and praising God.

I don't think we are to be distracted by how the Spirit manifests when he comes into our life.

The miracle is that when a person believes in Jesus and receives him, God gives to that person his Spirit who makes his home in them.

Similar to salvation, the coming of the Holy Spirit into one's life is a gift of grace.

Most definitely, when a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit, that experience results in a profound and dramatic encounter with the living God.

In Ephesus, it resulted in those disciples speaking in other languages and prophesying.

Others in the book of Acts joyfully and enthusiastically praised God

Acts 2:42-47  
(NIV)

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to

**Every day they continued to meet together.... praising God...**

to anyone who had need.<sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

THE EARLY CHURCH CHALLENGE

Others in the early church received supernatural power to trust Jesus in the face of great adversity.

<sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for **you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.** <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup> for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how **you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,** <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1

Still others experienced the love of God enveloping them in a powerful and unforgettable manner.

1 John 3:1  
...what great love  
the Father has lavished on us...

Romans 5:5  
...God's love has been poured out  
into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit,  
who has been given to us.

In the book of Acts and in the New Testament there is no set pattern of how a person was impacted when they received the Holy Spirit...only that they knew God has made his home in them.

Something Frank Crouch wrote provides us with an important understanding:





Ultimately our life in Christ is not just about any particular event that might have taken place in the early days of our faith. Those moments... when they happen are gifts from God to be treasured, but they constitute starting points, not ending points. Frank Crouch

Being baptized with the Spirit is not just an historical event but an ongoing reality of the believer's day to day life.

Because of our baptism the Spirit is active in us to produce in our character those qualities which distinguished Jesus.

**LOVE**

**JOY**

**PEACE**

**LONGSUFFERING**

**KINDNESS**

**GOODNESS**

**FAITHFULNESS**

**GENTLENESS**

**SELF-CONTROL**

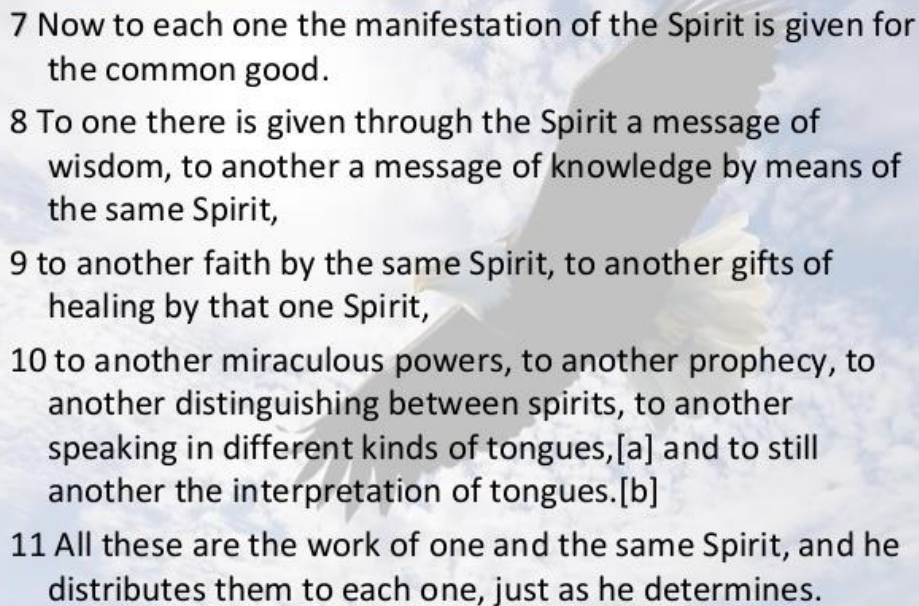
*Fruit of the Spirit*

GALATIANS 5:22



Because of our baptism, the Holy Spirit gives to each follower a manifestation of God's grace that is intended to be used for the common good.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NIV)**

- 
- 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
- 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,
- 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,
- 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[b]
- 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Followers of Jesus are a new kind of human being because the triune God has saved us; has adopted us; has come to make his home in us.

The question asked by Paul is one we ask ourselves as we wrap up our time in the word – “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

If you answer yes, delight in the glorious truth that God has saved you and made his home in you.

If you think you are a follower of Jesus but there is no evidence of God's life, his presence and power in you, it may be that you have not believed in and received Jesus.

If he has made himself known to you, will you in faith receive him?  
I would love to help you settle this matter.  
Will you speak with me after the service?

This question may also identify for some of you, in the words of John Piper... that there is a blockage in the manifestation of God's power and presence in your life.

If that is the case, may I pray with you before you leave, that this blockage would be revealed to you, in order that you might confess whatever it is that has hindered and quenched God's Spirit... and ask God for the Spirit to fill your life that you might again experience intimacy with him.

Our closing song invites all of us to be quiet before the Lord in order that we might respond to God.

## **The Blessing**

Psalm 46:10

Be still and know that I am God.