



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 13 – 26 Sermon Series

Supports Session 9: Motives

Sermon Title: “Living in the Spirit” (Acts 19:1-7)

### Connection to Session 9

Acts 19 shares important truths about the Holy Spirit and what it means to live in the Spirit.

### Introduction/Opening

Paul saw something he never expected. He encountered some disciples who didn't quite understand the gospel. Trying to discern where they were spiritually, he asked an important question: “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (Acts 19:2). “‘No,’ they told him, ‘We haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit’” (v. 3).

Paul knew that they needed Jesus. Today we're going to talk about living in the Spirit. More importantly, we will talk about some truths and dispel some misconceptions about the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### Outline

#### 1. Eternal life is a work of the Spirit (Acts 19:1-4)

- i. Eternal life is available through Jesus. (John 10:10; 14:6)
- ii. God saves us, not because of ourselves, but because of His love for us.
- b. No surrender, no Spirit. No Spirit, no salvation.
  - i. This means that you cannot “fake it ‘til you make it.” You can know all the doctrinal truths, go to church every week, and sing all the songs. You can participate in all the ministries and activities of the church, but this means nothing unless you have surrendered to the Spirit’s call to follow Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:9).

#### 2. Enthusiasm is not the Spirit (Acts 19:5-7)

- a. John the Baptist’s disciples had heard only part of the gospel.
  - i. But isn’t that enough? Close doesn’t cut it. They had not even heard about the Holy Spirit.
  - ii. These were enthusiastic men. They traveled hundreds of miles to teach the message of repentance. They were committed disciples of John.
  - iii. They were doing what committed disciples do: to follow their teacher wholeheartedly and enthusiastically. But commitment, emotion, and enthusiasm are not necessarily of the Spirit.

- iv. Today, people speak church language, wear Christian clothing and necklaces, put stickers on their cars, and show every indication of being a Christian. All these things are okay, but these are not guarantees that the person is of the Spirit.
- v. Imagine what would happen if every Christian were to go out and enthusiastically share the good news with everyone.

### **3. Live in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25)**

- a. Every believer has the Holy Spirit.
  - i. When you came to Christ, you received the gospel and were saved for eternity. God placed on you a seal (John 10:28-29; Eph. 1:13)
    - 1. The Holy Spirit seals you, preserves you, holds you close, guides you to truth, builds you up, prays for you, edifies you, grieves when you sin, and celebrates when you're obedient.
    - 2. The Holy Spirit, Who is in you, is guiding you to become more like Jesus.
- b. How to live in the Spirit:
  - i. Check your heart. Have you responded to the gospel? Does your life exhibit the fruit of the Spirit?
  - ii. Confess your sin (Jer. 17:9; Rom 3:23; 1 John 1:9).
  - iii. Commit to the gospel way (Luke 9:23; John 3:16; Rom. 10:9).

### **Conclusion**

Remember that eternal life is a work of the Spirit. If you have not received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, today could be your day. Enthusiasm, tradition, and using church language do not make you a Christian. Knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior and completely surrendering to Him is the only way by which you will be saved. Make that decision today.

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