



The Fairview Church

Knowing God

Acts 19

Speaker: Pastor Ric

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Pastor's Thought: As Christians we are called to confront evil in society, but not in our own power. If we are truly believers, we should have received the Holy Spirit when we accepted Christ's forgiveness. And, if we are Christians, people who encounter us in this life should easily know who we are. In acts nineteen, we see people who claim to know Christ, and pretend to do miraculous things in His name; but, in truth, they are trying to do good without the power of God. When you try to do good without God's spirit and power you will just get sicker and sicker; however, when you have the power of Christ in your life you will find victory! If we want the victory and the life the Holy Spirit has for us, we don't have to pretend and try to do the miraculous without God's spirit. What we have to do is simply believe in Jesus, and we will experience the abundant life he promises us (John 10:10). To experience this we must live the sinless life that Christ has freed us to live. We must turn from our sin and fall in love with Christ. It is not about speaking in tongues or prophecy, it is about **LOVING JESUS!** Being baptized means to be put into. If we want to experience the power of God and be baptized by His holy Spirit, we can just say to Him, "Lord, I am tired of being sorry, please baptize me with your spirit!" Paul saw amazing miracles in His life because he was a righteous man who loved God. Our world needs to see people who truly walk in the power of God. His power doesn't change! In acts nineteen we see those who USE the name of Jesus to try to do the miraculous, even though they do not really know God. They are those who seek after signs and wonders and NOT after God! In fact they do not even really know God, this is why when they try to cast out the demon He asks who are you? They are beaten up and do not experience victory. We must never USE the name of Jesus and try to do the miraculous on our own simply by invoking His name. It is God's power! It is our relationship with God, not our desire to do good or amazing things, that allows us to enjoy and experience His power and victory in our lives.

Q: As Christians, how are we called to confront evil in society?

Acts 19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. 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." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them....

Q: According to this, when do believers in Christ receive the Holy Spirit?

Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

**Q: Is God the same today as He was then?
Q: Will God do extraordinary miracles through us? IF so, why doesn't he?**

Acts 19:13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 (One day) the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Q: They used the right name, why did they fail?

Q: Why is trying to do good / the miraculous with out the power of God so dangerous?

Q: If it is not out of a desire to do the miraculous that you are enabled, then how do you access the power of God?

Q: How can we grow in our relationship with and love for God?