**THE DIFFERENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES**

**Acts 19:1-10**

**EMBRACING THE WHOLE TRUTH OF JESUS MOVES PEOPLE FROM RELIGION TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples 2 and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ ‘No,’ they told him, ‘we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ 3 ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ he asked them. ‘Into John’s baptism,’ they replied. 4 Paul said, ‘John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.’ 5 When they heard this, they were baptized into 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 to speak in tongues and to prophesy. 7 Now there were about twelve men in all.”* (Acts 19:1-7)
* *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.”* (1 Corinthians 12:13)
* *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you yourselves not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless you fail the test.”* (2 Corinthians 13:5)
* **3 signs that give assurance that you are a genuine follower of Jesus and have been baptized in the Spirit.**
  + **A true obedience**
  + *“This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. 4 The one who says, ‘I have come to know him,’ and yet doesn’t keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”* (1 John 2:3-4)
  + **A true belief**
  + *“I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* (1 John 5:13)
  + **A genuine love for fellow brothers and sisters**
  + *“The one who loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn’t know where he’s going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”* (1 John 2:10-11)
* **The Spirit of God gives us life and without Him we are spiritually dead.**
* *“If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.”* (Romans 8:9)
* **Too many people are falsely believing they are true Christians just because they are in church regularly and do Christian things.**
* “Those who often attend Christian religious events but can’t articulate basic truths of the gospel and who give no signs of regeneration also serve as examples [of unconverted people like the Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Christian Science].” – Dr. Tony Merida

**SOMETIMES OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL IN ONE PLACE FUELS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE GOSPEL IN ANOTHER PLACE**

* *“Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.”* (Acts 19:8-10)
* **When we are available, faithful, and persistent to speak the gospel, no amount of opposition can derail the work of God.**
* The end result*…”This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.”* (vs. 10)
* **We need to have a vision for more than just our local church reaching others; we need to have a heart and vision to multiply other multi-ethnic, gospel-centered churches to reach people beyond our city.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What was your favorite moment this Summer?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 19:1-10 teach us about God/The Holy Spirit?
* What was the difference between Apollos in Acts 18 and the “disciples” mentioned in Acts 19”1-10? How do we know these “disciples” were not Christians?
* What was the response of these “disciples” once they heard the Truth?
* How did opposition to Paul lead to expansion of the gospel?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* How do we know that all Christians are baptized in the Spirit?
* What are some ways you can tell someone might be religious, but not truly a Christian? How can you address that with them?
* In what areas do you need to grow when it comes to evangelizing others? How can we as a group pray for you in this area?
* Why is it important to have a vision for multiplying more churches in other areas, and not just focus on growing our church?
* What can you apply in your life starting now from this message?