



The Acts of the Spirit  
DISTURBING THE PEACE

# ACTS 19:1-7

“THE BAPTISM”

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

## SUMMARY

Pastor Joey helped us understand a complex passage from a complex situation in the life of the early church. In our next installment, we find Paul running into disciples who know about the Messiah, but Paul isn't sure they know the Messiah in the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul, using his discernment, helps inquire not only of their beliefs but of their spiritual core. He wants to know who has control of their lives. Paul knows that however good their theology may be, if the Holy Spirit is not the central animating power of their life, they are not on the right path.

This is a reality we all must face. We can know about Jesus, but that doesn't mean we know him. Although His grace covers our sins as we fall and it refreshes us on the path of sanctification, it should not deaden our longing for more of his presence or to cultivate his character and virtue in our daily lives. Although never perfect, God desires for us to experience more communion with and resemblance of our heavenly Father.

Appropriately, Pastor Joey challenged us to evaluate our walk with the Lord. Have we seen evidence of God's presence and the fruits of the Spirit growing in us? Is He becoming more and more the center of who we are and how we act? In short, are we moving from knowing about Jesus to truly knowing him?

As a community, let's courageously audit our lives so we can remove any hindrances to knowing more of Christ and the power of his resurrection! For the joy of knowing God better and from the safety of our love for one another, let's do this!

## DISCUSSION

- How did the sermon this last week impact you?
- Pastor Joey highlighted the recurring pattern in our lives: We are all tempted to confuse “knowing about” something with the reality of truly “knowing” something or someone. How can you tell if someone merely “knows about” something or someone?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.



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- Why are humans easily tempted to substitute “knowing about” something for putting in the effort to truly “know” it?
- How does someone move from knowing about to truly knowing?

### Extract the Truth

### Read the text: Acts 19:1-7

- What jumps out to you from the text?

As Pastor Joey explained, Paul knew something was off about these disciples, which caused him to question whether they truly knew Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- How might Paul be able to tell that something wasn't right about these disciples? What evidence might there have been that something was off?

Paul's questions about the Holy Spirit were his attempt to discern what was the central animating power that was driving their life. This was a loving question because the reality for all of us is that if the Holy Spirit doesn't control us, something else will.

- What would have been the outcome of these disciples' lives and faith (both temporally and eternally) had they never experienced communion with Jesus through the indwelling Holy Spirit?
- In your own words, what practically changed when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit that was different from “John's baptism”?

### Experience Transformation

Pastor Joey invited us to ask some serious but fundamental questions about the state of our relationship with Jesus. The purpose was not to scare us into faith but to evaluate ourselves clearly so we could grow closer to the God of the universe, who offers abundant life with him.

- For those who know Jesus, being safe in his grace, we can honestly evaluate or audit our relationship with Him. Why wouldn't we want to so we experience more joy in Him?

For those who do not yet know him or perhaps only know about him, this is a chance to experience the fullness of joy through a relationship with the Living God. With joy as our aim, we can fearlessly press into the following questions to help us chase after God together.

- How are you experiencing God's presence in your life today, and how have you seen that grow and change over the last year?
- What do you want your relationship with God to look like?
- What stands in your way of experiencing that type of relationship?
- What is God prompting you to do to pursue Him more?



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Pastor Joey offered us some specific questions we could ask ourselves and each other:

- Do you have a sense of God's presence in your life, a deep and abiding rest that comes from knowing you are at peace with God because of the sacrifice of Jesus on your behalf?
- If you look back on your life over the last season, can you see how you've grown in virtue, grown to be more like Jesus? Can you see ways in which God is becoming more and more the center of your life and worship? Ways in which you've moved deeper into the community of those who also worship him? Ways in which your relationship with Jesus has changed your everyday habits and rhythms of life? Ways in which you are beginning to move toward other people in your life who are close to you but far from God?

As we pray, I will read the hope we have in Jesus for those who truly know him in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6)

Prayer