



Acts 19.1-7

“Receive the Holy Spirit!”



Ephesus



Turkey (Asia)

Ephesus



The Parish of Bursledon
bursledonparish.org



- Paul met some 'disciples'.
- They had not heard there was a Holy Spirit!
- Was that really important?



No Holy Spirit?

- “What baptism did you receive?”
 - John's baptism was only part of the story.
 - Repentance without empowering.
 - Their doctrine of God was incomplete.



No Holy Spirit?

- “The Holy Spirit came on them.”
 - They had finally been baptised as Jesus himself had commanded.
 - The empowering presence of God.
 - They came to a fuller understanding of God.



Why does this matter?

- Christianity is not an idle faith.
 - Faith without action is dead (James 2.17).
 - Our doctrine shapes our activity.
 - The Holy Spirit enables our activity.



We need good doctrine

- Paul knew the scriptures were important.
 - If our doctrine is God-shaped, our actions will be.
 - The people of God need to reflect the character of God.
 - Theology tells us what God is like.



We need the Holy Spirit

- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit.
 - We cannot live for God without the Spirit.
 - The Ephesian experience shows that our lives and ministry are transformed when we are empowered by the Spirit.
 - The Spirit will teach us all things (John 14.26).



Holding it all together

- **Good Doctrine**

- A lifetime of development.
- Knowing what we believe.
- Directs our lives.

- **God's Empowering**

- Ongoing re-infilling (be being filled).
- Helping us to live out our belief.
- Shapes our lives.



Our lives and ministry are transformed when we are empowered by the Spirit.