A Summer's Journey: Week 3- Share the Gospel

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever shared the Gospel before? What happened? What was the response?
- 2. Do you need to be a missionary to share the Gospel? Why or Why not?

WORD

God often prepares the way for the missionary. Before you share the gospel, God has been working in the person's heart.

Acts 19:1-7 (NIV)

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 in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

We know that, when a person is born again, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in that person's life (1 Corinthians 6:19). If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, then he does not belong to Christ (Romans 8:9). So why is it that these men in Ephesus did not have the Holy Spirit, when it seems that they had believed?

The key is that they had not yet believed in Christ. They did not know about Jesus' saving work (or the <u>Holy Spirit's indwelling</u>) until they met Paul. A careful reading of the first part of <u>Acts 19</u> reveals several facts about this

group of twelve men: 1) They were "disciples"—but not of Christ. Rather, they were self-identified disciples of John the Baptist (verse 3). 2) They were not believers in the risen Lord Jesus Christ—Paul's question about their conversion experience reveals that they knew nothing of the Spirit or His power (verse 2). 3) They had taken the first step —repentance of sins—but they had not taken the corresponding step—faith in Christ.

DISCUSSION

How can a believer learn to walk in the Holy Spirit as he/she shares the Gospel?

WORD

God often prepares a person's heart to received. God often prepares the harvest.

As a follower of Christ, What will be our part for God's plan to His people?

- **1. Be Cooperative. (v2-6)** means acting together willingly or intentionally for a common purpose. God's will for these disciples is to receive from Paul. To be baptized with Jesus and Holy spirit. God has a plan for His people, we need to cooperate.
- **2. Be equipped.** (v4-8). You can't be ready when you are not equipped. Paul is not expecting to meet these "some " disciples. But he was equipped to share the gospel. He is ready anytime.

DISCUSSION

How do you feel knowing there are likely people you know that say they are Christian but are probably not? How can you help them see their need of repentance?

LIFE APPLICATION

Every believer is called to minister, we must be equipped in basic ministry skills. We—not just the pastor—are called to do the works of the ministry. God is ready to use us and mature us as we minister. The Holy Spirit lives in us, we are not alone. If we do not know what we don't know. ASK, BELIEVE and RECEIVE the power of the Holy Spirit and He will empowers us to share the gospel

DISCUSSION

What excuses have you used in the past to prove that you weren't yet ready to minister? What will you do to be equipped?

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

1 Corinthians 12:13

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink"

PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.



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