

in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. REVELATION 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. REVELATION 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Now back to our text of ACTS 19:1-7. We have noted in verses 1 and 7 that the Apostle Paul upon his arrival at Ephesus found certain believers, called in verse 1 disciples, and have noted that there never was any question as to their salvation. It is with this group of unnamed disciples that the Apostle Paul begins his ministry in Ephesus, thus laying the foundation upon which the church of Ephesus was founded, with Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone, {EPHESIANS 2:20}.

The Doctrine of the Holy Ghost

In verse 2 Paul asks these unnamed disciples "*Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*" This particular portion of scripture has caused much discussion over the centuries. Pastor Cyrus Ingerson Scofield (August 19, 1843-July 24, 1921), whose reference Bible many of us study, didn't understand this portion of scripture either, as evidenced by his study notes. The original Greek of "*Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*" reads: "The Holy Ghost, have you received Him, having believed?" This is a good question to ask all believers. "The Holy Ghost, have you received Him, having believed?" Notice here that the Apostle Paul had no doubt concerning these disciples salvation, (as we have noted above), but rather there was a question in his mind about their having received the Holy Ghost, also known as The Comforter, The Spirit of Truth, The Holy Spirit; the One whom Jesus noted in JOHN 16:13 that *...will guide you into all truth;* the One whom Jesus noted in JOHN 14:26 that *...shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* If all believers received the Holy Ghost when they believed, then why would an educated man like the Apostle Paul ask such a question as: "The Holy Ghost, have you received Him, having believed?" Brother Copley writes that "Paul knew that people did not receive Christ and the Spirit by one act of faith, as many today claim. Otherwise, his question would have been impertinent. Hence, the authorized version expresses the Apostle's meaning exactly -- "*Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*" That those twelve had believed on Jesus unto salvation, there can be no doubt. Their answer, therefore, proves that they had not yet received the Spirit. They said, nay *...We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*" (End of quote from Brother Copley).

Why did the Holy Ghost inspire Luke to write what he did in ACTS 19:1-7? To emphasize some fundamental New Testament doctrines that has already been taught here in the book of ACTS. One of these New Testament doctrines that is being emphasized here is the doctrinal fact that receiving the Holy Ghost is a separate event which takes place in some believers, (not all), after believing upon Jesus as their own personal Savior. We will cover several examples of this in the following paragraphs, but before we get to these other examples, let's first recall how it was that the Apostle Paul became a believer and received the Holy Ghost himself, and thus better appreciate why he asked these dozen or so Ephesian believers "*Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*" {ACTS 19:2}.

Recall in ACTS 9 verses 1 through 6 that the Apostle Paul got saved when he believed it truly was Jesus who appeared unto him as a bright Light greater than the noon day sun while he traveled on the road to Damascus. Paul's words of confession were: "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" {ACTS 9:6}. Part of the instructions that the Lord Jesus gave Paul on that day were to go into Damascus and wait for further instructions. These further instructions were given by the Lord to Ananias of Damascus, who in ACTS 9:17 came unto Paul and said: *...Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.* Now let me ask this question: was the Apostle Paul filled with the Holy Ghost when he believed on the road to Damascus, or

three days later when Ananias of Damascus came unto him? The correct scriptural answer is Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost three days after being saved. Ananias of Damascus could have very well asked Paul when he met him: *"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"* The point we are emphasizing here is that receiving the Holy Ghost is a separate event that takes place in some believers, (not all), after believing upon Jesus as their own personal Savior. Each and every believer should be asked this very question that Paul asked these Ephesian disciples: *"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"* {ACTS 19:2}.

Let's look at some other examples of this very same fact. In JOHN chapters 14, 15, and 16 we find words that Jesus spoke to his disciples during the time frame of the last passover supper and His betrayal. And during these conversations with His disciples, Jesus gave specific instructions concerning the Holy Ghost. Some highlights of what He said can be found in the following verses: JOHN 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ...26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. ...15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. ...16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. After His resurrection, but before the day of Pentecost, we read in JOHN 20:22 that Jesus appeared unto His disciples *...and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.**

Now the above facts Jesus disciples should have known, for Jesus was speaking these things unto them. After his crucifixion and resurrection we find Jesus again with His disciples, and many others, and Luke records the following facts found in ACTS 1. ACTS 1:1 *The former treatise have I made, C Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: (Many of these commandments are found in the above passages of JOHN 14, 15, and 16.) 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

Reading on in chapter 1 you will see that these very same people returned unto Jerusalem, their number being about one hundred and twenty. Then reading in ACTS 2:1-11 we find: *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were*

all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Note here that these believers received the sign of having received the Holy Ghost, which was speaking with other tongues. Note that this phenomena began here on the day of Pentecost. Not only was this sign of speaking with other tongues an evidence of their having been filled with the Holy Ghost, but as you read further in ACTS you will find the promised power of the Holy Ghost manifest by these very same Holy Ghost filled disciples. Peter on the very day of Pentecost that he got filled with the Holy Ghost preached his first sermon inspired by the Holy Ghost, and some three thousand got saved that day. This was the very same Peter who had some fifty plus days earlier denied knowing Jesus! Yet now full of the power of the Holy Ghost Peter was able to stand before this great multitude, and explain what had taken place on this very day of Pentecost. ACTS 2:37-41 explains what next took place. ACTS 2:37 *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* (No doubt we will return to this portion of scripture again when we cover our next doctrinal point discussed in ACTS 19:1-7).

Peter goes on to become one of the prominent Kingdom Apostles, doing many marvelous and wonderful things by the power of the Holy Ghost. Then in ACTS 10 we find that Peter was dealt with by the Lord to go unto the house of an Italian man, a Gentile named Cornelius, and preaches for the first time unto the Gentiles. And we read the following account starting in ACTS 10:34 *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. 36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*

A summary of all these events then is recorded in ACTS 11:1-18. ACTS 11:1 *And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the*

word of God. 2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, 3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. 4 But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, 5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me: 6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat. 8 But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. 9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. 10 And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven. 11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me. 12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: 13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; 14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

The Doctrine of Water Baptism

In the above portions of scripture we have seen several fundamental facts of New Testament doctrine emphasized. The first, the sign of having received the Holy Ghost since becoming a believer is evidenced by the believer speaking in a language he does not know, as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. The second New Testament doctrine emphasized in the above portions of scripture, and in ACTS 19:1-7 concerns water baptism. This will first lead us into a discussion of baptism in general.

Let's read our text again noting the subject of baptism. ACTS 19:1 *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. 7 And all the men were about twelve.*

The subject of baptism is a New Testament doctrine, which being misunderstood by an innumerable multitude, has caused considerable divisions among Christendom throughout this church age. There are really three aspects of baptism taught in the New Testament, all of which are really brought out in our portion of scripture of ACTS 19:1-7. We will cover this subject of baptism in chronological order as it is presented in the New Testament.

The first to baptize was John the Baptist. John the Baptist ministry can be read about in MATTHEW 3, MARK 1:1-11; LUKE 3:1-20; and in JOHN 1:15-34. The essence of John the Baptist ministry is summed up nicely for us here in ACTS 19:4 where Paul states: *...John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.* Paul in his first sermon to those of Antioch, Pisidia told them the same thing concerning the baptism of repentance in ACTS 13:23-25, which reads: *23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: 24 When John had first*