



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of February 22, 2026

Acts 19:1-10 *And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in 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 speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were about twelve men in all.*

8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. 10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

1. Is it possible to be “almost Christian”? If so, what would that look like and what would be missing? If not, why not?
2. What do you think it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)? Are all Christians filled with the Holy Spirit? Think about your own life. How is God’s Holy Spirit evident in you?
3. How would you help a person who claims to be a Christian but who lives an obviously non-Christian lifestyle? Why would helping someone like this be difficult? Why is it important to help this person anyway?
4. At the last supper Jesus promised that He would not leave His disciples as orphans but would send the Holy Spirit to live within us (John 14:16,18) Later Paul would write that all Christians receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation (1 Cor 12:13, Rom 8:9, Eph 1:13-14). If this is true, is there a need for Christians to seek a second baptism of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? What might prompt a person to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts 19:5-6?
5. Why is it important to determine whether a particular passage of Scripture is descriptive or prescriptive? (NOTE: a passage is descriptive if it is simply describing something that happened, while a passage is prescriptive if it is specifically teaching that something should happen. In other words, is it a description or a command?) Do you think Acts 19:5-6 is descriptive or prescriptive? Explain.
6. The Jews in Ephesus appear to have become hardened to the gospel as Paul was boldly reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. Do you know anyone who may have started off believing in God only to become hardened and start speaking evil of Christianity? What do you think is the reason people harden their hearts towards Christ?
7. RC Sproul said “*I think the greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests His power in the Bible. Everyone is looking for power in a program, in a methodology, in a technique, in anything and everything but that in which God has placed it—His Word. He alone has the power to change lives for eternity, and that power is focused on the Scriptures.*” Do you agree or disagree? Explain. Is teaching the word of God sufficient to evangelize the world?