

Week 21:
Acts 19:1-10

ACTS²

Baptism of the Spirit

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 19:1-10

Ephesians 6:12

Acts 2:9-11

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Need Prayer?

Use our digital connect card to let us know, and we will schedule a zoom call to pray with you.

Welcome Back

As Santa Barbara slowly re-opens, we welcome you back to campus! Stay up to date with constant changes by subscribing to our Weekly email Update

Find all links at:

<https://linktr.ee/ourelement>

Week 21: Acts 19:1-10 Baptism of the Spirit

BIG IDEA:

The trajectory of Acts shows us how God is bringing the world back to Himself through His own redemption. Paul, in the city of Ephesus, spends his time talking to three groups: those waiting for the Messiah, Jewish leaders, and the Greeks (Gentiles). Paul was concerned with the Holy Spirit's work both in the lives of individuals as well as the whole community.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How is America similar to the city of Ephesus?

How is our culture spiritual and lost?

How have you seen God working to bring the world back to Himself through redemption in Jesus?

How is the Holy Spirit evidence of salvation and new life?

Have you seen the fruit from the Holy Spirit dwelling within you?

Read Acts 19:1-10.

What is the difference between prescriptive and descriptive texts?

How should we read sections such as this one?

How is God's saving grace and power open to everyone?

In which of the following three categories do you find yourself in?

In which category do you find those in your family in?

- Non-Christian – have not trusted Jesus or the Holy Spirit
- Committed Christian – surrendering your heart every day to Christ
- Struggling Christian – one overcome by many things that distracts from the call of Christ in your life.

Pray that God's Spirit would revitalize those in your community.



PRAYER POINTS:

When the world seems to be melting down, it is often hard to focus our thoughts in prayer. Knowing that to be the case, we would like to offer the following points to consider in your time of prayer. 2 Thessalonians 3:16 *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.*

- **For repentance:** We pray for the understanding that we would return to who God calls us to be, His image bearers in the world.
- **For conviction:** We pray for conviction of the ways we have been complicit in seeing anyone as less than us and how we have marred the image of God. We ask our gracious God for forgiveness and trust. His grace is sufficient as we are cleansed from sin and unrighteousness.
- **For empathy:** We pray for broken, contrite hearts that grieve alongside all of God's oppressed children. We seek to better understand the struggles that are foreign to us and let those who are oppressed and fearful know they are not alone.
- **For fruitful conversation:** We pray for soft hearts, gentle spirits, and self-control as we engage in discourse with our neighbors over the issues of self-centeredness and racism. We pray for the strength to listen where we might be tempted to speak and the ability to give grace because we have first received it from God.
- **For people of color everywhere:** We pray they would know they are seen, valued, and loved by a good God. We pray they would run to the open arms of Christ for peace, wisdom, endurance, and comfort and that they cry out to Him in their distress.
- **For law enforcement:** We pray for encouragement for the hearts of law enforcement, that they would know their work is not in vain. We pray for their protection and discernment as they continue to protect and serve our communities. We pray that the the subject of police brutality would be thoughtfully and wisely examined.

- **For our political leaders:** We pray our political leaders would be moved to offer responses that are empathetic, discerning, gracious, and unifying. We pray they would set aside partisan attacks and be granted the wisdom that comes from God in responding to violence and chaos erupting from places of grief and anger.
- **For unity:** We pray that we would find places of connection and unity; seeking to understand the underlying intentions and motives of those that think differently from us. We pray for a godly love that allows us to move toward each other despite our differences, recognizing we are all touched by these issues as children of God.
- **For discernment:** We know that God is at work in this world and will make all things right in the end. We pray for discernment as we consider how to engage in His Kingdom work today, and that the Gospel would be our primary motivation and guidance for how we respond.
- **For salvation:** We pray for the salvation of those who cannot see past their hurt and anger in these moments, whose souls are not at rest. We pray that hearts would be opened, and lives would be cleansed and restored to the grace of God.
- **For reconciliation:** We pray for reconciliation between those divided and estranged over issues of bias and prejudice; where fear, anger, hatred and misunderstanding has brought alienation and separation because of our sin. We pray that our ultimate reconciliation to God by Jesus would allow us to step towards those we are alienated, bringing peace where there is no peace.
- **For God's glory:** We pray that ultimately God would be magnified and His people would dwell in His promised joy.

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*