



The Remnant Church

5-Day Devotional

Day 1 — Something Is Missing

Focus Verse: Acts 19:2

"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.'"

There is a moment Paul has that every spiritually attentive believer eventually experiences. He meets people who are doing everything right on the outside, and yet something prompts him to stop and ask a question. Not about their giving, not about their church attendance, not about their behavior. He asks whether they have received the Holy Spirit.

You may have been in a similar moment, either as the one asking or the one being asked. You have been going to church, reading your Bible occasionally, trying to live right, and yet something feels incomplete. There is activity without power, belief without fullness. The disciples in Ephesus were not pretending. They were genuinely committed to what they knew. The problem was that no one had ever told them there was more. God is not content to leave you in that place. The very fact that you are reading this today may be the divine appointment He arranged to move you closer to the fullness He always intended for you.

Today's Challenge: Ask yourself honestly whether your daily life reflects the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and bring that honest answer to God in prayer today.

Prayer: Father, I confess that I have sometimes settled for activity when You designed me for power. I open myself today to whatever fuller understanding of Your Spirit You want to give me. Lead me into the completeness You promised.

Day 2 — You Can Only Go So Far

Focus Verse: Acts 18:25

"He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John."

Apollos was impressive by every visible standard. He was eloquent, fervent, scripturally literate, and bold in the synagogue. People heard him and were moved. But Aquila and Priscilla heard something else beneath the eloquence. They heard a ceiling. He had taken people as far as his own understanding allowed, and his understanding had a limit he did not yet know about.

This is one of the most sobering truths in the book of Acts. You can only take people as high as you yourself have gone. This applies to teachers and pastors, but it also applies to the personal influences in your spiritual life. Think about who is shaping your understanding of God right now. Are they people who are walking in the fullness of the Spirit, or are they, like Apollos before Aquila and Priscilla found him, genuinely faithful but operating with an incomplete picture? The good news about Apollos is that when someone with greater revelation spoke into his life, he received it. His fervency was not a problem. His teachability made the difference.

Today's Challenge: Reflect on the spiritual voices that most shape your understanding of God, and pray for discernment about whether they are leading you into greater fullness or keeping you at a ceiling.

Prayer: Father, I want to be like Apollos after Aquila and Priscilla spoke to him, open, humble, and willing to receive more. Show me where I have placed a ceiling on what You want to do in my life through the people I listen to.

Day 3 — The Power Behind the Proclamation

Focus Verse: Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Jesus did not tell His disciples to go and witness right after the resurrection. He told them to wait. Wait for what? Not for better strategy, not for more training, not for a larger audience. He told them to wait for power. The Holy Spirit was not a bonus feature for especially dedicated believers. He was the non-negotiable requirement for effective witness.

This distinction matters deeply for where you are right now. You can have the right words and still lack the power to back them up. You can know the scriptures and still leave people unchanged. The disciples in Acts 1 had walked with Jesus for three years. They had seen miracles, heard His teaching, and watched the resurrection. And still He said, wait. You need something more before you go. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not about achieving a higher spiritual status. It is about receiving what Christ Himself said you need in order to do what He has called you to do. A witness testifies to what they have personally received, experienced, and know to be true. The Holy Spirit makes that kind of witness possible.

Today's Challenge: Consider one area of your life where you have been trying to serve God in your own strength, and surrender that specific area to the leadership of the Holy Spirit today.

Prayer: Father, I do not want to go ahead of Your power. I surrender my efforts, my words, and my witness to You. Fill me with the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead so that my life points people to Him.

Day 4 — Committed to the Old Move

Focus Verse: John 7:38-39

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

One of the quiet tragedies in the Acts 19 narrative is this: the disciples of Apollos were not rebellious or apathetic. They were committed. They were faithful to what they had been taught. The problem was that what they had been taught was anchored to a move of God that had already been superseded by a greater one. John's baptism was genuine and preparatory. But Pentecost had happened, and they had not yet received what Pentecost offered.

There is a version of this that appears in every generation of believers. People become so deeply loyal to a familiar expression of faith that they resist anything that seems to go beyond it. The familiarity becomes the measure of authenticity, and anything new feels threatening. But rivers do not flow by staying still. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as rivers of living water, not a still pond. God is always moving forward, and He invites His people to move with Him. Honoring past faithfulness does not require refusing present fullness. The disciples in Ephesus had to make a decision when Paul arrived. Twelve of them said yes.

Today's Challenge: Identify one familiar spiritual pattern or tradition in your life that may be holding you back from a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit, and bring it honestly before God.

Prayer: Father, I honor what You have done in my past, and I refuse to let gratitude for yesterday become resistance to today. Move me forward into the fullness of Your Spirit, even where it is unfamiliar.

Day 5 — Twelve Who Said Yes

Focus Verse: Acts 19:6

"And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying."

The narrative in Acts 19 ends with a quiet but powerful detail. There were twelve men. The text does not say how many disciples Apollos had left behind in Ephesus. It only tells us how many received what Paul offered. Twelve said yes. The implication the preacher draws from this is sobering: there may have been more who heard, but chose to remain where they were, loyal to what their teacher had given them even after the teacher was gone.

This is the moment the entire five-day reflection has been building toward. You have heard about the Acts 19:2 syndrome, the condition of being a genuine believer and committed disciple who has not yet received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You have traced its cause to incomplete teaching, its symptoms to a life of religious activity without spiritual power, and its remedy to the same thing Paul offered those twelve men in Ephesus. The question the sermon leaves open is the same one this devotional leaves open: Will you be among those who hear and receive, or among those who hear and remain? God's provision of the Holy Spirit is not reserved for exceptional believers. It was poured out for all who would receive, and it is available to you today.

Today's Challenge: If you have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, ask God for it today in specific, believing prayer, and seek out a Spirit-filled believer or pastor who can walk alongside you in receiving it.

Prayer: Father, I want to be among those who said yes. I believe Your Spirit is available to me right now. I ask You to baptize me with the Holy Spirit and with power, so that my life from this day forward bears witness to the living Christ.