

THE BIG IDEA: There is more, and that is enough.

The Take-Off

To kind of get our brains primed for this morning, I want you to take a few minutes and talk with the people around you about things that you use everyday and don't really understand how they work.

Take a couple of minutes, and when we come back we'll hear some of what you came up with.

So, what were some of the things you named?

How about lasers - they're in CD, DVD and Blu-ray players

Did you say an accelerometer? probably not, but your smart phone has one and that's how it knows to flip your screen when you turn the device sideways

A gyroscope is like an accelerometer and it helps keep movements from being jerky. There's one in the wireless mouse at home beside your computer.

I'm sure someone said radio waves, right? They allow us to listen to our radios, for sure, but they also enable cell phones, televisions and your GPS to work. And don't forget WiFi. It wouldn't work without radio waves, either.

The point here isn't to turn church into a science lab, but simply to set the table for the passage of scripture we're heading into on our next stop in Acts.

If we had to pick one chapter in the entire book of Acts and label it "Most likely to freak people out" then chapter 19 might be the one.

Over the next few weeks we'll read about 12 men speaking in tongues, handkerchiefs and aprons being used to heal people, 7 brothers being left naked and bleeding by a demon, a bonfire worth millions of dollars and a going out of business sale that turned into a riot.

If there was ever a time that we might want to play the "I won't believe unless I understand" card, it would be now

To be honest, it's easy for me to feel the burden of trying to "explain the unexplainable"

But we just talked about all kinds of things that we willingly use every single day that we don't really understand, and that doesn't stop us from using them

It's good to want to know and understand - that's why shows like "How It's made" are so popular.

But a crossing of the arms to spiritual truths that Paul would call a mystery basically makes our knowledge and understanding an idol

This morning, know that it's sometimes good to understand what something does even if we don't understand how it does what it does

That is exactly what 12 men experienced in the first 7 verses of Acts 19, and that's where we'll be today.

Probably the best things for us to do today is simply start reading and stop as needed to make observations or answer questions raised by the passage. So, let's begin.

1. Verses 1 - 4

- a. Paul has arrived in Ephesus and met what Luke (the author of Acts) refers to as "disciples" (we know from verse 7 that there were "about 12 men")
 - The obvious question then is "disciples of who?"
 - Some say they were disciples of John the Baptist because they mention John in verse 3
 - Others say that they are Christians and disciples of Jesus
 - Luke consistently uses the word "disciple" to refer to Christians and would likely have said "of John" if he'd meant John the Baptist
 - Paul calls them believers in verse 2, and that term is used about 20 times in Acts about Christians
- b. Paul asks the disciples if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed
- c. They said that they'd never even heard there was a Holy Spirit
 - The obvious question then is "Don't we receive the Spirit when we're saved?"
 - The obvious answer is "yes"
 - John 3:5 - no one can enter the kingdom unless born of the Spirit
 - John 6:63 - the Spirit gives life
 - Titus 3:5-6 - we're saved through the rebirth of the Spirit given by Jesus
 - 1 Corinthians 12:3 - impossible to say Jesus is Lord without the Holy Spirit
 - Another question: "Had they really not heard about the Holy Spirit?"

- They had because they had John's baptism which pointed to Someone greater (Jesus greater than John) who would baptize people with something greater (fire greater than water)
 - Their answer is better translated "we did not know whether the Holy Spirit had been given yet"
 - Paul explained to them about Jesus and that he was the one John was pointing to (verse 4)
 - They were a lot like Apollos in Acts 18:24-26
 - Basically in both situations mature believers explained to younger believers what they had already experienced

2. Verses 5 - 7

- a. Paul baptized them
- b. So whether or not they were disciples of Jesus in verse 1, we know they were disciples of Jesus in verse 5
- c. Paul placed his hands on them, they received the Holy Spirit, they spoke in tongues and prophesied (verse 6)
 - Seems like there may be a question here! "What are tongues?"
 - We've seen tongues a few times already in Acts and taught on them in the 4th week of this journey
 - You can - and probably should - find the notes from that message on the website under "current teaching"
 - It's not my goal to spend a lot of time today teaching about tongues, but here are a few things to note:
 - Tongues are a language, both earthly and heavenly (1 Corinthians 13:1 - "of men and angels")
 - Tongues are spoken of in Scripture in a private and a public way. One is available to all (1 Cor. 14:5) while one is not (1 Cor. 12:8-11 and 28-30)
 - Tongues are confusing, but mostly when the private and the public are mixed up
 - Again, go back online and review the teaching from week 4

3. Thoughts and takeaways

- a. The Holy Spirit is a gift given by a good Father
 - Acts 2:38 - the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - James 1:17 - every good gift is from the Father
 - There will be lots of bad gifts given to dads today (with the best of intentions, of course)
 - Here are pictures of some of those gifts!
 - The Holy Spirit is one good gift given by a Father today
- b. The Holy Spirit is given for future needs more than present needs
 - This allows us to receive it with trust
 - Our Father knows that we need to be empowered for what lies ahead
 - Everything that happens in the rest of Acts 19 required the power of the Spirit
 - Acts 1:8 - "You will receive power (now) so you can...(future)"
 - Paul noticed something in these men in Ephesus - something that was missing, something not quite right - and discerned that it was the Holy Spirit
 - Paul didn't want them facing the future without receiving the power of the Holy Spirit now
- c. The Holy Spirit isn't given so we can do weird things in church, but so we can do warfare outside the church
 - the task we've been called to is IMPOSSIBLE without the power of the Holy Spirit
 - the best way to point people to Jesus is to be full of the Spirit that points people to Jesus (John 16:8-11)

The Landing

Let me give you two pictures that can help us focus before we pray.

One is WiFi - all of us have it right now because it's in this shop, but only some will access it, and we won't access it based on our understanding of how it works, but rather on our understanding of what it does. There are certain things that can only be downloaded with it. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. (see 1 Corinthians 2:9-14)

Second is a kite - story heard about Mark Driscoll on stormy vacation flying kites - it danced, so did his daughter. The Spirit fills us and allows us to live fully (Romans 8:11)

For 12 men in Ephesus, it was enough to simply hear that there was more available to them.

For us this morning, can we respond to that same offer? **There is more, and that is enough.**