

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, July 29, 2012**  
**Don't Give up The Ghost! 1**  
**Have You Heard?**

**TEXT:** Acts 19:1-7 / 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

We live in a time when the Spirit of God wants to move in a fresh sweep in the earth. In fact, I believe that the revival has begun. We have to make a choice: will we seek and encourage the Person of the Holy Spirit in our midst, or will we reduce Him to doctrine rather than Deity? We need the power of the Spirit because we are engaged in a spiritual battle that cannot be won by natural means. Video presentations and fog machines will not deter the forces of evil. They are real and personal and must be engaged by the real and personal power of the Holy Ghost.

♥ We need more than repentance

- John's baptism was a mark of repentance and readiness for the coming of the Messiah Mk 1:4
  - **Repentance** is a term for any time we have a change of attitude toward old behaviors and thinking. We see them clearly, abhor them, and think differently after. It isn't a feeling, but a change of viewpoint that leads to some attempt at changed action. When done toward God, it produces forgiveness of sin.
  - Note the admonition of John the Baptist concerning his own baptism:
    - Do works that demonstrate a change of mind or attitude toward your old way of life. Lk 3:8
    - Lk 3:16-17. There is another baptism coming: you are gonna need one mightier than me, John, to escape the things to come.
- Acts 2:38 quotes Peter using the same terminology in reference to coming to Christ.
  - Note that repentance still is associated with remission of sin. Were not the ones under John's Baptism forgiven?
  - Peter offers a different seal to the deal: Be baptized in the Name of Jesus and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- The repentance is the same, but the next step is different. In Christian baptism sins are not just covered, they are done away with. Being baptized into Christ marks a death of the old man and an entry into a whole new realm: Romans 6:4 calls it "newness of life."

- *The saddest of all people are those who are convicted of the sinfulness of sin, the hopelessness of lost-ness, yet they find only the baptism of John: "Try harder to live right and maybe God will spare you in the end."*
  - Christianity is not a club for good people or a support group for flawed people. It is the gathering of the people who have been twice born: Repentance without the power of the Spirit is a miserable substitute for abundant life.

♥ **You must be born again** John 3:3-8

- There is no Christianity without a personal encounter with God the Spirit, a miracle is required
- Remember Saul of Tarsus? A good man by any religious test, but the worst of sinners by his own confession. 1 Tim 1:15 / Acts 9:3-8
- All the religious acts in the world don't do anything: Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. 2 Cor 5:17 / Eph 4:24

♥ **The new birth is not the end, but the beginning.** The Christian life is lived by the power of the Spirit, not by the works of the Law: Gal 3:3

- Marked by the Spirit within us: Eph 1:13-14 / 2 Cor 5:5 / Romans 8:15-17 / 1 John 5:10
- Changed by the Spirit
  - 1 John 3:8 / Heb 12:5-9. With Him in you, you are ruined as a sinner. Give up!!
  - 2 Cor 3:18. As you gaze intently into the Word, the Spirit transforms you. You don't transform you
- Taught by the Spirit: Eph 1:15-23 / Jn 14:26
- Serving in Spirit. Romans 7:6 / 2 Cor 3:5-6
- I can't save myself, and I can't change myself. The harder I try to look Christ like, the more ridiculous and brittle I become. The more intently I stare at Him, the more He transforms me.
- I can't save you and I can't change you. The harder I try to change you the more we despise each other. When I proclaim Him and His goodness, and turn your attention to Him, the more likely you are to be drawn to Him.

**'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'**  
**Says the LORD of hosts.**  
**Zechariah 4:6**