

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE APOSTLE PAUL -LESSON 32

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY – PART 18

RETURN TO EPHEBUS

Paul had been travelling around Galatia and Phrygia in Asia Minor while Apollos was in Ephesus being tutored in the small church there by Aquila and Priscilla. After Apollos left for Corinth, Paul worked his way down the coast of the Aegean Sea returning to Ephesus.

Back at Ephesus, Paul came across a group of believers who were not a part of Aquila's church. As he talked with them, he found out that they had become believers in Jesus as Messiah through John the Baptist's testimony of Him. They had been baptized by John, but they had no knowledge of the movement that grew from the outpouring at Pentecost in Jerusalem. Since John had many disciples that could have brought his message to many areas, it is quite possible these believers in Ephesus had never even been to Jerusalem. They had never heard of the Holy Ghost.

Paul preached the gospel to them, and they received the word from him. They were baptized by Paul in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward, Paul laid hands on them to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They all then spoke in other tongues and spoke prophecies under the anointing.

This is additional evidence from scripture that speaking in tongues is from the Holy Spirit and was the common experience of believers in the early church of the apostolic period. It is available today also for every believer who desires more of God in their life. It is an endowment (impartation) of power to do the works of which Jesus spoke of in John 14:12 where he said, ***"...the works that I do shall (ye) do also and (even) greater works..."*** Then in verse 13 he said, ***"...whatsoever ye shall ask in my name..."*** By the anointing of power from Holy Spirit, we have access to all of Jesus' power and authority given Him by the Father. This includes the twelve gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in I Corinthians 12.