

In the early 1700s, John Wesley sailed from England to America. When he arrived in Georgia, he was met by a very godly man that asked him a question that he was never able to forget. The question seemed simple enough, but somehow it probed Wesley to the depth of his soul. Abruptly and without much introduction, the older man asked,

“Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?”

Wesley hesitated and the man continued, “Do you know Jesus Christ?” At that time, the best that Wesley could answer was, “I know that He is the Savior of the world.” At that, the older man asked, “But do you know He has saved you?” Wesley answered, “I hope that He has died to save me.” That exchange was very important in the chain of events that changed Wesley's life forever.

In this tract, I am going to ask you a question that will hopefully be that kind of question. I hope that it is a question that you will never forget. I hope it is the beginning of a life change that will shape the way you think and the way you operate. I cannot claim that the question is original because it has been asked before. Even so, it is one that is not asked often, but this question has the power to change your life.

Are you ready? Stop for a minute and consider this odd question.

Have you received the Holy Ghost since you became a believer?

You might be wondering where such an odd question began. You might be surprised, but it was first asked by Paul the Apostle. He was traveling through Asia when he met 12 men from Ephesus. After greeting them and learning that they were disciples, he asked them, “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” What exactly was it that Paul was asking?

If you take time to read the passage in Acts 19:1-7,

you will easily see the progression of events. Paul met these brethren and asked them the odd question. After some explanation, they all got baptized. After the baptism, Paul then laid hands on them so that they could receive the Holy Ghost just as he had asked at the beginning of the story.

Many people think that receiving the Holy Ghost is the same as receiving salvation. This story reveals that this is not the case. Even if these men were not saved when Paul met them, they certainly were saved before they were baptized. Yet, it was after the baptism that they received the Holy Ghost.

How did Paul know that they had indeed received the Holy Ghost? The Bible answers that question by saying that they spoke with tongues. This is exactly the same way that other people in the book of Acts responded to being filled with the Holy Ghost (see Acts 2:4 and 10:45-46).

Let me ask my question again.

Have you received the Holy Ghost since you became a believer?

If you are still not sure just follow this line of reasoning. The first step is to receive salvation. This is the time when you surrender your life to Christ and repent of your sins. After you have done this, then you can pray to receive the Holy Ghost. You will know when your prayer has been answered when you experience the power of God in a very real and personal way and begin to speak in a language that you do not understand. This is called “tongues” in the Bible. When the Spirit of God comes on you in power and you begin to worship in another language, you will know that you have received the Holy Ghost.

Have you received the Holy Ghost since you became a believer? If not, you can. **This is a promise in the Bible for everyone that believes** (See Acts 2:38-39). You can have this experience too, but you will need to ask God for it (See Luke 11:13).