

# The Empowering Presence

Acts 19:1-7

**Our current moment in the church calendar:** Following Advent, the church celebrates Epiphany proper on January 6, followed by several weeks focusing on different moments in the life of Jesus. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God in Christ and proclaims his presence to all. In the season of Epiphany, we will focus our teachings on the Spirit’s manifestation to us through baptism, Jesus’ first miracle, and finally, the transfiguration.

**1** And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. **2** And 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.” **3** And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **4** And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” **5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. **7** There were about twelve men in all. -Acts 19:1-7

1. This passage \_\_\_\_\_ us to examine ourselves, to see where the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. -Romans 8:11*

<b>D.O.G. WISDOM</b> <i>(Dead Old Guy/Gal)</i>	<p><i>“In many other passages the Apostle reminds us that the gifts of God reside in the substance of the Holy Spirit, as in this one: ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your believing so that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13). God, the bestower of goods, in the power of the Spirit grants the hope he promised to those who have the Spirit. <b>With joy and peace he fills those who possess undisturbed, peaceful thoughts, and have minds joyful and calmed from every storm of the passions.</b>”</i></p> <p>-Didymus the Blind, <i>On the Holy Spirit</i></p>
<p><i>D.O.G. Wisdom is common-folk language for a fancy term called Retrieval Theology, where we uncover rich insights and practices of past theologians.</i></p>	

2. This passage encourages us to \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.

*But now I am going him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. -John 16:5-7*

**WINTER COMMON PRACTICE:** What Scripture is coming \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to you through leisurely contemplation and prayer? (Carry it with you on a 4x6 index card!)