

Acts 19:2 – “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? ... We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” Our failure to acknowledge the Holy Spirit has allowed the spirit of the world to reign in the church. When the Holy Spirit is not acknowledged in the church, the church will not be acknowledged in the world. The world will be as indifferent toward the church as the church is indifferent toward the Holy Spirit. It is possible to run a church without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be absent, and no one know of it for years. The Holy Spirit needs to be restored to His place in the church. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, liberal theologians began to deny the deity of Jesus Christ. They replaced Him with a “historical Jesus” who is not historical and has no power to save. The church today is just as blasphemous when they deny or ignore the importance of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has been replaced with a secularized ideal with no more power than the human spirit. Until the Spirit reigns in the church as Christ reigns in Heaven, the church will not know His power. The church without the Spirit has no more than a fraternity with a religious flavor. Its message is no more nourishing than Kool Aid. Paul said, “My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (I Cor. 2:4). Power is missing in the church, because the Spirit is missing. The message has been secularized. People have “not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” Without the witness the Spirit, the message of Jesus is no more than a philosophy to the world. Philosophy won’t change the world. It doesn’t change lives. It can’t save from sin. Take the Holy Spirit out of the church and you are left with a religious philosophy bereft of power. A. W. Tozer said, “There are churches so completely out of the hands of God that if the Holy Spirit withdrew from them, they wouldn’t find it out for many months.” Let’s bring the Spirit back by obedience to the Word of God. Let’s bring Him back in prayer. Let’s invite Him back in revival. Then we will see what the church is supposed to be. When the church is aflame with the Spirit, people will come to watch us burn. There is nothing so inviting, as a church filled with the Holy Spirit. HA