

**Acts 19.1-7**

**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?  
6 Common Answers**

When I ask people this question, there are 6 answers I commonly hear. Which one do you most identify with?

**1. I'm not sure if I believe.**

The Holy Spirit comes upon believers in Jesus. Becoming a believer is not complicated.

**2. I'm confused about baptism.**

The Holy Spirit can come upon you before or after baptism.

If you believe, get baptised. Believing, baptism and receiving the Spirit are foundations. Foundations are put in first, not later on.

**3. I haven't heard there is a Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit does not usually come upon you automatically at conversion, it is a clear experience, Jesus baptises in the Spirit, the laying on of hands is often involved.

**4. I'm still waiting**

The Holy Spirit is received by faith; you don't have to wait.

What are you waiting for?

- Waiting for myself – maturity, readiness, holiness. Paul (Acts 9) had only been saved 3 days. The guys in Acts 10 received at conversion. We receive the Spirit by faith. Gal 3.2
- Waiting for God. John 7.37-39. We only had to wait until Jesus was glorified. There is no longer any reason to wait.

**5. Yes, but a long time ago and not since then.**

The Holy Spirit comes upon us to begin a relationship that will last forever.

Receiving the Spirit is not a one-off thing but an introduction to a person who will transform your Christian life. Not a box ticked but a relationship begun.

**6. I'm not sure**

The Holy Spirit comes upon us clearly and powerfully, and he brings gifts.

Acts 8.18 – when Simon saw...

Acts 10.45-46 – they heard them...

The Holy Spirit rarely comes imperceptibly

John 7.37 “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”

**Questions for application**

1. Have you received the Holy Spirit? How do you know?
2. Do you speak in tongues? How do you feel about this gift?
3. What is a relationship with the Holy Spirit like? How can you develop this relationship?
4. Do you feel you have these 3 clear foundations of belief, baptism and the Spirit?
5. Is anyone thirsty tonight? Pray for one another to filled again with the Holy Spirit.