

## “TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, January 7, 2018)

### Share:

#### Acts 19:1-7, Paul in Ephesus

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism. '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, in Jesus. 'On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

### Read these words from a hymn today:

Called as partners in Christ's service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God's chosen end.  
Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,  
In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
Words of challenge, said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action,  
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

### Read this scripture from worship: Mark 1:4-11 (*The Message*)

John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey. As he preached he said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism - a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit - will change you from the inside out." At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out

of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- What is the difference between being baptized in the name of John or in the name of Jesus?
- How will I respond to the Holy Spirit's call for my life?
- If I respond to the Holy Spirit, does this make me God's partner?
- How might being God's hands make me more mindful?

Pray together:

Here we are, Lord, we are your people. Though we are sometimes foolish, though we go astray and don't always seek after you, we are still here, and we are still your people. Be with us as we walk through this new year, and teach us to call on you. Help us to pursue your righteousness, and to know that deliverance comes from you. Let us feel the stirrings of your Spirit now and help us to respond knowing that we truly are your hands, heart, and feet. Help us to grow as people and especially as your people. Help us to learn how we can work with you to help others find your peace.

Bless one another:

Join hands and say or sing

Here I am, Lord

Is it I, Lord,

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me,

I will hold your people in my hands.

Resources Used: *Glory to God*, The Presbyterian Hymnal  
*Homiletics Online*, *The Message*