

RIP VAN WINKLES

ACTS 18:23-19:1-7

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: “After coming into contact with John the Baptist, these men in Ephesus had become spiritual Rip Van Winkles. Their lives show us that we can only lift others to the level we ourselves live.” Kent Hughes, *Acts*, pp 249-251.

WITH LIMITED KNOWLEDGE—Scholarly, self-taught knowledge is always incomplete. Holy Spirit taught knowledge is infinite. (**Acts 18:23-25, fn 18:24-26, fn 18:27,28[1st]**, **John 3:10,11, fn 3:10,11, John 14:15-26, fn 14:17ff, I Corinthians 2:9-16, fn 2:10, fn 2:15, 16**) *Why is it important to be controlled by the Spirit when studying the Scriptures?*

WITH NO CHURCH—The Holy Spirit not only gives us a relationship with Jesus. He places us in relationship with the family of believers. (**Acts 18:26-28, fn 19:2-4, Matthew 18:20, fn 18:19, 20, Ephesians 2:19-22, fn 2:19-22, I Peter 2:4-10, fn 2:4-8[2nd]**) *How could you help your family and friends to guard against becoming spiritual Rip Van Winkles?*

WITH MUCH FAITH—They were no longer Spiritual Rip Van Winkles! “Believing is receiving.”, Hughes, p. 251. With humility these men received the Holy Spirit through God’s ambassadors and they were born again. They praised God in other languages. (**Acts 19:1-7, fn 19:6, John 1:29-34, fn 1:31-34, fn 1:34, John 3:3-8, fn 3:6, Titus 3:3-8, fn 3:3-8, Acts 1:5, fn 1:5**) *What would you write to praise Jesus for your salvation?*

The Bible was not written for our information only but for our transformation. How will these verses change you in your walk with God and others?

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?

