

# Halfway Christians

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 18:23-19:7.

B. Paul's purpose is to strengthen the churches.

## II. It is essential that young believers become saturated with the Word of God.

A. You cannot grow as a Christian without the Word of God.

B. Evangelism does not come without maturity.

## III. Apollos and John the Baptist's message.

A. The message of John was that it was possible to receive repentance directly from God without a substitute.

B. Baptism was an act demonstrating repentance.

C. Repentance would achieve forgiveness of sins, but it did not give any power to live rightly.

D. Aquila and Priscilla informed Apollos about Jesus.

E. Apollos in turn helped others with his knowledge of the Old Testament to receive Jesus.

## IV. The Normal Christian pattern was that the Spirit was given to the believer upon belief in Christ. (John 7)

A. Followers of John the Baptist had not heard that the Spirit was given.

B. The Spirit gave power to live day by day.

C. When these followers received the knowledge of Jesus and the Spirit, they were re-baptized because their original baptism was incomplete.

D. The mark of the Spirit's coming was the exercise of spiritual gifts.

1. Whenever the Spirit comes, He gives the believer spiritual gifts.

2. Here, there was public speaking in tongues as a sign to unbelievers that God was at work. (I Corinthians 12, 14, Isaiah)

3. Many are misled by a false view of tongues that are an emotional shortcut to spirituality—the biblical gift is one that will encourage and exhort others.

4. The other gift present is prophesy—an illumination of the Word of God.

5. Prophecy is for the edification of the church.

E. The gifts came when they believed in Jesus.

1. Many believe in Jesus but do not evidence any gifts.

2. The continual act of believing releases the freshness of the gifts in our lives.

**Application questions:**

1. What was missing with the followers of John the Baptist and Apollos originally?

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2. How might the Spirit be manifest today and how is this the answer to the half-way Christian?

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3. How will you spur yourself on to continual belief today? What can you do to make your faith more consistent?

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