

- **God is a God of new beginnings. (1-7)**
- **God is a God of the impossible. (8-10)**

## I. **God is a God of new beginnings. (Acts 19:1-7)**

### Spiritual Blessings in Christ

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us<sup>[a]</sup> for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known<sup>[a]</sup> to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

#### A. **He wants you to understand the Scriptures. (19:1a)**

1. For Apollos – He went to Corinth (19:1a); He received a new understanding about the Way of the Lord from Priscilla and Aquilla (18:26-28)
2. The Way and the baptism of John emphasized repentance and hope in the coming Messiah. Baptism in the name of Jesus, acknowledges that the Messiah HAS COME. Keep in mind: both repentance and faith are necessary for genuine conversion to take place.
3. Apollos (Acts 18:25) & the disciples of John fit this context as well (Acts 19:4).

#### B. **He wants you to engage in your calling. (19:1b)**

1. For Paul – He started his third and final missionary journey (Acts 18:23 marks the conclusion of his second missionary journey. Acts 19:1 marks the beginning of his third journey.)
2. His calling according to Romans 1:1-6 was to bring the gospel to the Gentiles...

Paul, a servant<sup>[a]</sup> of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David<sup>[a]</sup> according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>**through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations**, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

3. Paul wanted to go where the gospel had not yet been made known (Romans 15:20-21)

<sup>20</sup>and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, <sup>21</sup>but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,  
and those who have never heard will understand.”

4. It seemed that on his last missionary journey, Paul was focused on “strengthening the disciples” (18:23 – 19:1; 20:1; 20:17; 21:4; 21:18)
5. Paul’s self-directed mission ended in Acts 21:33 when he was arrested and eventually taken to Rome. In prison, Paul continued to faithfully preach about the kingdom of God, minister to those he saw in the city (Onesimus) and write the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

### C. He wants you to understand the role of the Holy Spirit. (19:2-7)

1. Paul asks the disciples a simple question: “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”
2. The disciples responded with a short statement: “No. We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”
  - What about the teachings of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:2, 6, 8, 11; Mark 1:4-5; Luke 3:8? Perhaps their answer reveals that some *disciples* (followers of someone) do not always retain as much information as the teacher would like them to retain. 😊
  - They knew they should believe in something more than the current idolatry of the goddess Diana but they didn’t seem to know much of anything about the ministry of the Holy Spirit!
3. The Holy Spirit is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son (Matthew 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Peter 1:11). He is active in creation (Gen. 1:2), redemption (Rom. 8:2), inspiration (2 Peter 1:20-21), illumination (1 Cor. 2:6-16), sanctification (2 Cor. 3:18)...
  - He is described in Scripture as the Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate (Isaiah 11:2; John 14:16; 15:26; 16:7).
  - He convicts the world of sin (John 16:7-11).
  - He deposits, seals, and is the earnest until the day of redemption for all believers (2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14).
  - He guides believers (John 16:13).
  - He indwells believers (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 6:19).
  - He produces fruit in believers (Galatians 5:22-23).
  - He intercedes for believers (Romans 8:26).
  - He is the revealer and Spirit of Truth (John 14:17; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16).
  - He is the Teacher (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13)
  - He is the Witness in our spirits that we are saved (Romans 8:16; Hebrews 2:4; 10:15)
  - Believers are baptized into the Holy Spirit at the point of conversion. (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13)
  - Believers can resist the Spirit (Acts 7:51), quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19), and grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30).

## Three ways we grieve the Holy Spirit of God:<sup>1</sup>

**First, we grieve the Holy Spirit when we use him to excuse our sinfulness.** The Spirit is meant to be *the* source of conviction in the human hearts. How sad it is, therefore, when Christians try to use the Spirit to support ungodly behavior. We see it when people—whether genuinely deceived or purposeful charlatans—claim the leading of the Spirit as the reason for their unbiblical divorce, or for their financial impropriety, or for their new found sexual liberation. The Holy Spirit is always the Spirit of holiness. He means to show us our sin not to excuse it through subjective feelings, spontaneous impressions, and wish fulfillment disguised as

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/three-surprising-ways-to-grieve-the-holy-spirit/>

enlightened spirituality. If the Holy Spirit is grieved when we turn from righteous into sin, how doubly grieved he must be when we claim the Spirit's authority for such deliberate rebellion.

**Second, we grieve the Holy Spirit when we pit him against the Scriptures.** The Spirit works to reveal the truth of the word of God, not to lead us away from it. There is no place in the Christian life for supposing or suggesting that careful attention to the Bible is somehow antithetical to earnest devotion to the Holy Spirit. Anyone wishing to honor the Spirit would do well to honor the Scriptures he inspired and means to illuminate.

Sometimes Christians will cite the promise in John 16:13 that the Spirit “will guide you into all the truth” as reason to expect that the third person of the Trinity will give us new insights not found in the Scripture. But the “truth” referred to in John 16 is the whole truth about everything bound up in Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. The Spirit will unpack the things that are to come, insofar as he will reveal to the apostles (see v. 12) the significance of Jesus' death, resurrection, and exaltation. The Spirit, speaking for the Father and the Son, would help the apostles remember what Jesus said and understand the true meaning of who Jesus is and what he accomplished (John 14:26).

This means that the Spirit is responsible for the truths the apostles preached and that in turn were written down in what we now call the New Testament. We trust the Bible—and do not need to go beyond the Bible—because the apostles, and those under the umbrella of their authority, wrote the Bible by means of the Spirit's revelation. The Bible is the Spirit's book. To insist on exegetical precision, theological rigor, and careful attention to the word of God should never be denigrated as stuffing our heads full of knowledge, let alone as somehow opposed to the *real* work of the Spirit.

**Third, we grieve the Holy Spirit when we suggest he is jealous of our focus on Christ.** The Holy Spirit's work is to serve. He speaks only what he hears (John 16:13). He declares what he is given; his mission is to glorify another (John 16:14). All three persons of the Trinity are fully God, yet in the divine economy the Son makes known the Father and the Spirit glorifies the Son. Yes, it is a terrible thing to be ignorant about the Spirit and unwise to overlook the indispensable role he plays in our lives. But we must not think we can focus on Christ too much, or that when we exalt Christ to the glory of God the Father that somehow the Spirit is sulking off in the corner. The Spirit means to shine a light on Christ; he is not envious to stand in the light himself.

Exulting in Christ, focusing on Christ, speaking much and singing often of Christ are not evidences of the Spirit's dismissal but of the Spirit's work. If the symbol of the church is the cross and not the dove, that's because the Spirit would have it that way. As J. I. Packer puts it, “The Spirit's message to us is never, ‘Look at me; listen to me; come to me; get to know me,’ but always, ‘Look at *him*, and see *his* glory; listen to *him*, and hear *his* word; go to *him*, and have life; get to know *him*, and taste his gift of joy and peace.’”

- Paul facilitated their baptisms (I Corinthians 1:14-16) through Priscilla (Acts 18:1-2), Silas and Timothy (Acts 18:5), or Erastus (Acts 19:22).
- Paul laid hands on them, thus demonstrating his approval of their conversion simultaneous to the HS baptizing/indwelling them.

**D. He wants you to embrace the unity of the church. (Acts 2:4; 8:14-17; 10:45-46; 19:6)**

1. The inclusion of believing Jews (Acts 2:4).
2. The inclusion of believing Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17).
3. The inclusion of believing Gentiles (Acts 10:45-46).
4. The inclusion of believing OT saints (Acts 19:6).

## **I. God is a God of new beginnings. (Acts 19:1-7)**

## **II. God is a God of the impossible. (Acts 19:8-10)**

Ephesians 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **A. He can protect you when times get rough. (19:8-9)**

1. Paul spent an unprecedented 3 months lecturing boldly in the synagogue. He used both logic (reasoning: *dialogomenos* – use of formal language) and persuasion (passion: *peithon* – convince, appeal to, seek favor) regarding the kingdom of God. No doubt this was Paul's effort to call people to understand the physical and spiritual aspects of the kingdom.
  - a. Physically – We will one day return with Christ reign for 1,000 years (Revelation 20)
  - b. Spiritually – Believers are members of the spiritual kingdom (Revelation 1:9; Colossians 1:13) which is visibly displayed through the church (Ephesians 2:19; Matthew 13... the Kingdom parables).
2. Some became stubborn (to become hardened) and continued in unbelief (found also in Acts 14:2 to describe a group of unbelieving Jews who stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and poisoned the minds of the Jews against their brothers).
3. Paul simply withdrew from them and took his congregation of believers with him.

### **B. He can provide for you when the way seems blocked. (19:10)**

1. Paul taught in the Hall of Tyrannus. Tyrannus (Tryant) may have been a nickname given to its most popular professor or college president.
2. Some manuscripts include the timing of their meetings (from 11 am – 4 pm). Perhaps this was during the afternoon break when most stopped for lunch and refreshment. Paul took advantage of this open door and utilized the available facility.
3. Note the effectiveness of teaching in a "college town." If you can persuade the next generation, you can impact the culture exponentially. Verse 10 says that "all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks (Acts 19:10), thus giving us an idea of the makeup of the congregation in Ephesus.

## **Application:**

- Embrace new chapters in your life as a gift from God. (I Cor. 2:6-16 [the illuminating work of the HS that leads to better alignment with God's Word]; Acts 13:2 [the commissioning of the HS that leads to an alignment with God's plan for your new location]; 16:6-7 [the forbidding of the HS which leads to an alignment of your plan with God's plan])
- Yield to indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
  - Begin a study on the Person of the Holy Spirit. Use a Bible Concordance. Read a Systematic Theology.<sup>2</sup>
  - Look for ways the Holy Spirit was involved in creation, conversion, inspiration, revelation, sanctification, gifting, and glorification.
  - Pray through the names of the Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup>
- Take advantage of opportunities to boldly proclaim the truth. (Acts 1:8)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Christian-Theology-Millard-J-Erickson/dp/0801036437>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/torreys-topical-textbook/titles-and-names-of-the-holy-spirit.html>

# The Common Characteristics of Millennial Professionals

BY SALLY KANE

Updated May 28, 2019

Millennials, or members of Generation Y (also known as Gen Y) were born between 1982 and 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau estimates that there are 83.1 million millennials in the U.S., and the Pew Research Center found that millennials surpassed baby boomers (boomers) to become the largest living generation in the United States in 2016.

Millennials are separated from the older generation before them (Generation X) and the generation that followed them (Generation Z).

## Millennial Characteristics

As expected by their birth years, the Millennial generation makes up the fastest growing segment of the workforce. As companies compete for available talent, employers simply cannot ignore the needs, desires, and attitudes of this vast generation. As with each generation that preceded it, Millennials have come to be defined by a set of characteristics formed mainly by the world and culture they grew up in. Here are a few of their common characteristics.

### Millennials are Tech-Savvy

Generation Y grew up with technology, and they rely on it to perform their jobs better. Armed with smartphones, laptops, and other gadgets, this generation is plugged in 24/7. They like to communicate through email, text messaging, and whatever new social media platform (i.e., Twitter, Instagram) friends and colleagues are using. This is a generation that can't even imagine a world without the internet or cell phones.

### Millennials Are Family-Centric

The fast-track lifestyle has lost much of its appeal for millennials. The members of this generation are willing to trade high pay for fewer billable hours, flexible schedules, and a better work/life balance. Although older generations may view this attitude as narcissistic or see it as a lack of commitment, discipline, and drive, Millennials have a different idea of workplace expectations. Millennials usually prioritize family over work, and even those who aren't married with children feel the need to be a part of a family and spend time with nieces, nephews, and siblings.

### Millennials Are Achievement-Oriented

Nurtured and pampered by parents who didn't want to make the mistakes of the previous generation, millennials are confident, ambitious, and achievement-oriented. They also have high expectations of their employers, tend to seek new challenges at work, and aren't afraid to question authority. Generation Y wants meaningful work and a solid learning curve.

### Millennials are Team-Oriented

While growing up, most Millennial boys and girls participated in team sports, playgroups, and other group activities, whether it was soccer or ballet. They value teamwork and seek the input and affirmation of others. Millennials are the true no-person-left-behind generation, loyal and committed. They want to be included and involved.

### Generation Y Craves Attention

Generation Y craves feedback and guidance. They appreciate being kept in the loop and often need frequent praise and reassurance. Millennials may benefit greatly from mentors who can help guide and develop their talents. This is where the boomers come in handy because (though mostly retired), they have something to offer and see mentoring millennials is one way they can continue to contribute to the workforce.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/common-characteristics-of-generation-y-professionals-2164683>

## Generation Y Is Prone to Job-Hopping

A potential downside of Generation Y workers is that they're always looking for something new and better. It's not uncommon for a millennial to stay with a firm for only two or three years before moving on to a position they think is better. The resumes you receive from millennial job seekers will undoubtedly demonstrate this peppered job history.

Don't discount members of this generation just because they've worked for several firms—these young employees bring with them a variety of experiences. Unlike previous generations, they do not take a job and then hold onto it for as long as humanly possible. Instead, they go out and create a new app or fund a trendy start-up.

## The Bottom Line About Millennials

Generation Y possesses many characteristics that are unique in comparison to past generations. They tend to be excited about their jobs, and they will work hard and efficiently. They might approach their superiors as equals more so than previous generations, but companies can take steps to draw a line between supervisor and friend. When that line is drawn, millennials will not only work tirelessly for you, but they will show you the respect due to a supervisor with many years experience.

## Characteristics of Generation Z:<sup>5</sup>

### 9 Important Insights about Generation Z

Posted December 8, 2016 by **Sean McDowell** and filed under the categories **Relationships, Talk for Today**.

Move over Millennials. A new generation is here. For the past decade, there has been considerable discussion about how to understand and reach Millennials. But now there is a new generation, **roughly those born between 1995 and 2010**, which are the newest focus.

While the name Generation Z seems to be the most widespread, they are also referred to as the “Selfie Generation,” “iGen,” “Post-Millennials,” the “App Generation,” “TransGeneration,” and more. But regardless of the title, here are nine insights about this generation from my personal experience and research:

**1. Digital Natives:** While Millennials grew up in a technologically savvy and connected world, younger members of Generation Z cannot remember a world without the Internet. They grew up swiping an iPad before they learned how to talk and are the first generation to be raised in the era of smartphones. Teenage members of Gen Z are connected nearly every waking hour of the day.

**2. Entrepreneurial:** Gen Zers have been raised with businesses such as Uber and airbnb, seeing how easy and simple it is to use your own time and resources to make money. 72% of older members of Gen Z want to start their own business.<sup>[1]</sup>

**3. Diverse:** This is the last generation that will be majority white (52%). Between 2000-2010, the country's Hispanic population grew at four times the rate of the total population.<sup>[2]</sup> The idea of a black president is not exceptional to them—its normal. Gen Zers have grown up experiencing diversity, and they feel overwhelmingly positive about it.

**4. Less Religious Identification:** In 1966, 6.6% of incoming freshman reported being unaffiliated with any religion. In 2015, nearly one-third (29.6%) of all incoming college students reported not identifying with any particular religion.<sup>[3]</sup> The question is whether young people today are truly moving away from religion or just defining themselves differently than previous generations. I tend towards the latter explanation, although there is probably some truth in the first.

---

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.josh.org/9-important-insights-generation-z/?mwm\\_id=304943788053&mot=J79GNF&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIu5LijMyx5wIVyZ-zCh0ptQ\\_9EAAYASAAEgINM\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.josh.org/9-important-insights-generation-z/?mwm_id=304943788053&mot=J79GNF&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIu5LijMyx5wIVyZ-zCh0ptQ_9EAAYASAAEgINM_D_BwE)

**5. Blurry:** Formerly distinct lines are now considered “blurry.” Technology has blurred the lines between home and work, study and entertainment, and public and private. Gen Zers have a different experience of family—same-sex households, working moms, stay-at-home dads, three-parent families, and couples choosing not to have kids. The nuclear family will make up less than a third of all families by 2026.<sup>[4]</sup> And, of course, gender and romantic identities have become blurry as well. <sup>[5]</sup>

**6. Overwhelmed:** In her interviews with teens for her article in *Time* magazine, Susanna Schrobsdorff says that “there was a pervasive sense that being a teenager today is a draining full-time job that includes doing schoolwork, managing a social media identity and fretting about career, climate change, sexism, racism—you name it.”<sup>[6]</sup> 68% feel overwhelmed by everything they need to do each week.<sup>[7]</sup>

**7. Lonely:** 3 million adolescents 12-17 have had a “major depressive episode” in the past year. There has been an increase in anxiety and depression among high school students since 2012. And this upsurge cuts across virtually all demographics—suburban, urban, and rural. <sup>[8]</sup>

**8. Progressive:** Most Gen Zers plan to get married, have children, and buy a home—although probably later than previous generations. And they are less likely to drink, smoke, and take drugs. Yet they hold more progressive views on issues like the legality of marijuana and the morality of same-sex marriage. <sup>[9]</sup>

**9. Individualistic:** Anne Fisher captures the forces that have helped create an individualistic emphasis among this generation: “Gen Z is used to having everything personalized just for them, from playlists to newsfeeds to products features of all kinds. They’ve grown up expecting that.”<sup>[10]</sup>

There is a tendency to be either overly romantic or critical about new generations. The reality is that members of Generation Z face the same life challenges as previous generations, but in a super-connected and rapid-moving technological age. And let us not forget that they have the same deep needs for love, significance, meaning, and belonging as every previous generation.

**Sean McDowell, Ph.D.** is a professor of Christian Apologetics at Biola University, a best-selling author of over 18 books, an internationally recognized speaker, and a part-time high school teacher. Follow him on Twitter: @sean\_mcdowell and his blog: [seanmcdowell.org](http://seanmcdowell.org).