

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2ND, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 19:1-7) PAUL FOUND "SOME DISCIPLES"

Paul arrives in Ephesus and meets about 12 disciples. As he talks with them, Paul realizes they are missing a key understanding about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He begins asking questions to help them understand what they lack, not to criticize their faith.

- **Paul cared more about helping them grow than proving them wrong.**

JOHN WAS POINTING TO JESUS

They had received John's baptism. John the Baptist preached repentance—turning away from sin and preparing for the Messiah. Paul explains that the one John had told people to look for had already come.

- **We can clean up habits, become more disciplined, attend church, and still miss Jesus.**

TRUTH SHOULD LEAD TO OBEDIENCE

Once Paul explains what they are missing, their response is simple: they obey. They don't argue with Paul. They don't defend what they had done before. They don't allow pride to keep them from taking another step. They respond by baptism.

- **Knowledge without obedience will never produce spiritual maturity.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES EVERYTHING

Paul lays his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit comes upon them. They begin speaking in tongues and prophesying. **This doesn't happen every time someone believes.**

- The outward signs may differ, but the truth is the same: **when we repent and trust in Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit, and baptism is a public declaration of faith.**

FAITHFUL (ACTS 19:8-10)

PAUL KEPT SHOWING UP

Paul enters the synagogue and spends three months speaking boldly, reasoning, and persuading people about the Kingdom of God. He doesn't preach once and walk away. He continues showing up to point people to Jesus.

- **We cannot force someone to follow Jesus, but we can faithfully keep pointing them toward Him.**

LECTURE HALL

Some people hardened their hearts and opposed Paul and the gospel. Instead of spending all his energy arguing, Paul moved on—but the mission continued. Paul began teaching daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

- Paul faithfully taught a small group, and eventually an entire region heard about Jesus.

JESUS' NAME (ACTS 19:11-20)

"EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES"

Luke tells us that God was doing extraordinary miracles through Paul. The power wasn't coming from Paul—it was coming from God. The handkerchiefs and aprons weren't a formula to follow. Luke is simply showing us how powerfully God was moving in Ephesus.

- **Paul was the instrument, but God was the source.**

THE NAME OF JESUS

Some traveling Jewish exorcists see what God is doing through Paul and try to imitate it. They begin using the name of Jesus, hoping to experience the same power.

- **Don't treat Jesus as a tool. The name of Jesus is not a formula to get results; real power flows from a real relationship with Him.**

KNOWING ABOUT JESUS ISN'T ENOUGH

The evil spirit responds, "I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you?" The sons of Sceva knew the name of Jesus and had seen what He could do through Paul. **But they didn't know Jesus for themselves.**

- **We can know a lot about Jesus (proximity to the things of God) without knowing Jesus (relationship with Jesus).**

SPIRITUAL BATTLE

The evil spirit overpowers the sons of Sceva and physically attacks them. They run from the house beaten, wounded, and humiliated. Luke reminds us that **spiritual evil is real and should never be treated casually.**

- **We don't have to live afraid of darkness, but we should never be foolish enough to play with it.**

REAL REPENTANCE LEADS TO REAL CHANGE

The people of Ephesus saw that spiritual darkness was real, but they also realized Jesus was greater. Many began confessing their sinful practices, and those involved in magic brought their books and burned them publicly.

- **They didn't just change what they believed. They changed how they lived.**

WHEN JESUS CHANGES PEOPLE, IT SPREADS

"In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed" (v. 20). Jesus was changing a community. The gospel confronted false religion, hardened hearts, demonic oppression, and deeply rooted sinful practices.

- **Jesus changed what they believed, what they valued, what they practiced, and how they lived.**

DO WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- When we put our faith in Jesus and repent, then the Holy Spirit lives within us.
- The Holy Spirit leads us, convicts us, and strengthens us. **God doesn't just save us from our old life—He empowers us to live a new one.**
- Am I living each day dependent on the Holy Spirit—or depending on myself?

DO WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

- We can attend church, know Scripture, sing worship songs, serve, and still only have proximity to the things of God without surrender to God. **Have we mistaken proximity for relationship?**
- The enemy recognized Jesus. He recognized Paul. Would our lives give any evidence that we belong to Jesus?

ARE WE GROWING CLOSER TO JESUS?

- Following Jesus means some old passions, habits, relationships, and patterns cannot come with us.
- New life in Jesus should create new desires, new priorities, and new passions.
- **Sometimes we have to "burn" the bridge back to the life Jesus rescued us from. What needs to be "burned" in your life?**

WILL WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW JESUS?

- These Ephesian Believers had new love for Jesus. Their actions showed it early on. But in Revelation, the church in Ephesus is rebuked for abandoning "the love they had at first" (Revelation 2:2-4).
- We may begin with passionate adoration of Jesus, but **we must not grow cold in our love for the Savior. Keep running to Him.**