

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 1ST–2ND, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 19:1–7) THE THIRD MISSIONARY TRIP BEGINS

Paul put Apollos in charge in Corinth and hit the road. When he got to Ephesus, he encountered “some disciples” and asked if they had received “the Holy Spirit when [they] believed?”

- These men were followers of John’s teachings and had been baptized but were not fully educated on Christ and the Spirit.

THEY WERE LOOKING

The 12 followed God the best they could with the info they had. They were unaware that the Messiah had come, died, resurrected, and poured out His Spirit. Paul caught them up and proclaimed the promise of Acts 2.

- This is another reminder that **people who genuinely seek truth will find it (Matthew 7).**

AND THEY RESPONDED WITH OBEDIENCE

When they heard of Jesus, they were baptized in His name, “and when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them.”

- The 12 men followed the pattern we see all through the NT when it comes to our salvation: **faith, repentance, obedience in baptism, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.**

“AND THEY BEGAN TO SPEAK IN TONGUES”

The gift of tongues works in three ways:

- **1) Proof Tongue:** To share the gospel in a language one doesn’t know (Acts 2).
- **2) Personal Tongue:** As a prayer language with God (1 Corinthians 13; 14).
- **3) Prophetic Tongue:** In a corporate setting; must be paired with gift of interpretation (1 Corinthians 14).

MAKING SURE WE ARE EDUCATED ON THE GIFTS

Some churches teach that we must have the gift of tongues as evidence of salvation. Ephesians 1:13 says, **“In Him you...were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth...and when you believed.”**

- Besides wisdom (James 1:5), Jesus chooses what gifts work through us (1 Corinthians 12:11).

WHY DID THESE GUYS SPEAK IN TONGUES?

The gift of tongues is still active, but not everyone receives it (1 Corinthians 12). Similar to Cornelius, tongues was given here to prove these men had been welcomed into the faith.

- They also “prophesied,” which means they spoke the truth of Jesus. This is forth-telling, or proclaiming the will/heart of God.

DISCUSSIONS (ACTS 19:8–10)

BACK IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Though Paul “shook his clothes” in Corinth when it came to ministry to the Jews, it seems he still tried desperately to convince other synagogues about Jesus.

- True to the pattern, they continued to reject the truth and “became hardened” and “slander[ed] the Way.”

SETTING UP SHOP IN THE LECTURE HALL

Paul took the disciples in Ephesus and rented a school to teach anyone who wanted to learn about Jesus. It’s safe to assume Priscilla and Aquila paid for it and helped in the leadership.

- This lasted two years, reaching many Jews and Greeks from Turkey. Churches were started in Colosse, Laodicea, and Hierapolis.

THE NAME (ACTS 19:11–20)

“EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES”

Luke records that people were physically healed and spiritually delivered by touching Paul or his belongings.

- All miracles are extraordinary; these were uncommon. Notice **the miracles came after Paul’s obedience to God and faithfulness to teach the Word.**

THE DANGER OF CHASING SIGNS

Often times, people can chase signs, miracles, and spiritual gifts more than Jesus.

The purpose of miracles is to draw people to Jesus and the truth. **We should pursue the Giver, not the gifts (Matthew 16).**

- **When Jesus is the focal point, the things of God naturally develop in our lives.**

AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME MONEY

There were some “itinerant Jewish exorcists” who tried to replicate the miracles by invoking Jesus’ name. These people were traveling “healers” who used sacred names and rituals (witchcraft) to cast demons out of people.

- This was an accepted profession and was quite popular in Ephesus (Acts 8; 13).

THE SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA

Seven sons of a Jewish priest tried to use the name of “Jesus that Paul preaches” to cast out a demon. During the attempt, the demon spoke through the man and said, **“I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you?”**

- **Invoking the power of Jesus is useless if no personal relationship with Him exists.**

SPIRITUAL EVIL CAN LEAD TO PHYSICAL HARM

The possessed man “jumped on,” “overpowered,” and “prevailed against them, so that they ran out of the house naked and wounded.”

- Demons are real and can do mental and spiritual harm that can lead to physical harm. **Christians shouldn’t fear demons if we’re living right and not entertaining evil.**

THIS FREAKED OUT THE PEOPLE

When the people of Ephesus heard, it struck fear in them, and they started to treat “the name of the Lord...in high esteem.”

- There’s a **legitimate fear we should have when we’re not in relationship with Jesus because we lack the salvation, protection, and guidance His Spirit gives.**

MANY BELIEVED AND MATURED IN THEIR FAITH

As the truth and power of Jesus was demonstrated in Ephesus, many became Christians and “came confessing and disclosing their practices.”

- **To be saved, we must admit our ways are wrong and turn from them. Confession and repentance yield freedom and peace.**

“THE WORD...SPREAD AND PREVAILED”

“Many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them.” Their value would have been millions of dollars today.

- **Separation from sin at all costs should be an obvious move for Christians, and we should gladly leave our sinful pasts behind because we are new creations.**

TRUE BELIEVERS POSSESS THE SPIRIT

- Anyone who hears the gospel, puts their **faith in Jesus, repents, and is obedient** is “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”
- This is access to a power that we would be fools to not tap into. **It isn’t just about being saved but being set free and empowered to live an extraordinary life.**

THE GIFTS (1 CORINTHIANS 12; EPHESIANS 4; ROMANS 12)

- All of the gifts of the Spirit are still active, and we are to be biblically educated on what they are and how they function.
- We are to pursue the gifts (especially **love, wisdom, and prophecy**), but we are to trust God to distribute them as He sees fit.
- **We must always be seeking the Giver first.**

GOD KNOWS US, BUT DOES SATAN?

- **If we pursue the benefits of Jesus more than Jesus, we end up powerless and ineffective.**
- Many have a “form of godliness” (2 Tim. 3; Mt. 7) but have no authority, power, or possibly salvation because they have no **personal relationship with Christ through prayer, study, and obedience.**

REMEMBERING THAT SIN ENSLAVES US

- True Christians want to distance themselves from sin and evil regardless of the cost and sacrifice. **Are there some things we need to remove from our lives?**
- If we are not careful, **small compromises can lead to open doors for evil to creep in and do monumental damage.**