

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

DISCIPLES? (ACTS 19:1-7) PAUL FOUND SOME DISCIPLES

Paul is continuing his second missionary journey and has the opportunity to return to Ephesus.

- With the context of Chapter 18, it seems that Paul finds a group of about 12 men who have the same spiritual standing as Apollos.
- They were disciples of John, or maybe even Apollos, but didn't know Christ.

"DID YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT...?"

Paul asked if they had received the Holy Spirit WHEN they believed.

- Their response was that they hadn't "even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
- The picture was becoming clear to Paul that these men had faith in a message but didn't know Christ.
- **Words can lead us to hope. Jesus IS hope.**

WHAT KIND OF BAPTISM?

They had been baptized, but Paul asked them why they were baptized.

- Their answer revealed that they believed someone was coming, and they had prepared their hearts through repentance.
- The Holy Spirit had been preparing their hearts to put their faith in Jesus Christ. They weren't behind schedule; **God has perfect timing!**

A SECOND BAPTISM

Luke summarizes Paul's teaching into a sentence that reveals Jesus as Savior.

- When they heard this, they were baptized again. It's not that the first baptism was wrong; it was just for a different reason.
- The meaning of baptism matters. These men became Believers of Jesus and were then baptized in His name to declare the truth they had received.

"THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME ON THEM"

These men had been faithful in what they had known. Now, with the truth of Jesus Christ, they began to testify.

- Speaking in tongues allowed them to share the gospel beyond their family circles.
- The gift of prophecy allowed them to teach in church meetings about things they had not known or understood before their salvation.
- **They weren't sharing the message of John, Apollos, or even Paul; it was the message of Christ!**

DISCUSSION (ACTS 19:8-10) PAUL ENTERED THE SYNAGOGUE

Sticking to his pattern, Paul enters the synagogue and begins to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- It's amazing that he was able to teach there for three months.
- As long as the opportunity existed, Paul was faithful to engage in conversation about the Kingdom of God.

PAUL LEFT THE SYNAGOGUE

After sharing faithfully, the usual resistance stood up against Paul and the gospel. Instead of continuing to challenge them, Paul withdrew with the old and new disciples.

- Paul wasn't there to win arguments; he was there to share the gospel with those who would listen.
- He and the disciples may have moved to another venue, but seeds had been planted in the synagogue.

THE LECTURE HALL OF TYRANNUS

The lecture hall may have been owned by Tyrannus, or it's possible he was a local philosopher who held classes there.

- As a broad instructional center, it attracted a wider group of curious Jews and Greeks from all over the Roman province of Asia.
- This may have been the longest time Paul stayed in any city. They came to hear him but left with a message that established churches throughout the region.

MIRACLES (ACTS 19:11-20) EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES

To advance the gospel, God had used Paul to perform many miracles in the past.

- This time, God uniquely revealed His power by graciously connecting to local beliefs for the purpose of compelling them to draw near and discover what His messenger was proclaiming to them.
- Paul couldn't reach everyone, but God could bring them to hear Paul's message.

INITIATED BY GOD, NOT MEN

Paul did not promote himself as a miracle worker. He wasn't healing to manipulate. God healed to create opportunities for the gospel to be shared.

- Fascinated by Paul's power and influence, some local exorcists thought they might try using the name of Jesus to bolster their business.

USING PAUL'S JESUS

They commanded the evil spirit to come out by the name of the Lord "Jesus that Paul preaches."

- **Like many today, they hoped to tap into the power of someone else's relationship with God. They wanted God's power for themselves and not a relationship with the God of creation.**

NAKED AND WOUNDED

The evil spirit recognized their words, but their spiritual integrity was fake.

- Luke includes that their father was a Jewish high priest, but that didn't matter to the spirit.
- The evil spirit overpowered them, ripped their clothes, and tore their skin.
- They were forced to run away in shame because they sought to use Jesus for their selfish desires.

THE NAME OF LORD JESUS HELD HIGH

When the news got out that these weak wizards couldn't handle the name of Jesus, people began to treat the name of Jesus with respect.

- They now understood Jesus is not a power that can be controlled by people and He will not work outside of His will.
- **It's humiliating and humbling when we realize how many times we have tried to "use" Jesus.**

REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION

Faced with the power and holiness of Jesus, many repentant Believers came to publicly confess their sins.

- More than confession, they decided to remove the devices that held them in opposition to God. They no longer desired what had been treasures to them before Christ.
- **This isn't about burning books; it's about letting go of what keeps us from faithful living, no matter the cost.**

PRIORITIES

- Everyone has priorities.
- **Some things are more important.**
- **Obviously, our relationship with Christ should be the number one priority, and other stuff should fall in line. Problems grow when we elevate sin to places of priority.**

RESOURCES

- We like to know our resources.
- **Our resources help us get things done.**
- **Resources become tools when we use them to get things done. Jesus is a resource but never a tool. Are we doing what He desires, or do we desire Him to do what we want?**
- **If we continue to attempt to control Jesus, are we prepared for what He may do?**

POWER

- Many Christians want to have power.
- **God gives us power over sin.**
- **The problem comes when we want that power to be seen and recognized in us. We look less like Jesus followers and more like power brokers. It may be time to confess our sin, turn from sin's resources, and return to following Christ. If we are too afraid to humbly admit our faults, God has the right and power to do it for us. What's next?**