

DISRUPTION

May 13, 2021

Wonder Working Power

The Continued Story....

Acts 19: 1-22

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. ² “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”³ “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. And they replied, “The baptism of John.”⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.”⁵ As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Authentic Faith is full belief and surrender to Jesus as Lord

⁸ Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. ⁹ But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So, Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.¹¹ God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. ¹² When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.¹³ A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!” ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” ¹⁶ Then the man with the

evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

Real Power comes from the Holy Spirit

¹⁷ The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. ¹⁸ Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. ¹⁹ A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. ²⁰ So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect²¹ Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "I must go on to Rome!" ²² He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia.

Small Group Discussion

Opening: Do you have any prayer requests, praises, or words from God or sins to confess?

- 1. What is authentic faith Christian faith?**
- 2. How easy is it to replace God and faith in Christ with other things?**
- 3. Where does the real power come from? Ephesians 1:18-20**
- 4. What are some other verses that speak of the power of the Holy Spirit and His ability to step into our lives?**
- 5. How does one appropriate that power on a daily basis?**
- 6. How can we recognize the powers and the strategies that are a without God life? Ephesians 6:10-12**
- 7. Are there anything that you need pray about? Something to overcome? Something you need courage for? Something you need to confess and trust God for?**