

## SERMON NOTES: Week 7, May 15, 2016

### FROM THIS DAY FORWARD . . .

#### *“Power”*

**QUESTION: How are we to accomplish great things for God in this world?**

**ACTS 19:1,**<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at **Ephesus**.

**Ephesus:** a great city at the hub of the trade routes of the world, full of culture and money and temples and politics and soldiers and merchants and slaves. And power. Everything we know about Ephesus indicates that it was a place where not only social and civic power, but also religious and spiritual power, were concentrated.<sup>1</sup>

**1 Corinthians 2:4–5,**<sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.

**ACTS 19:1–7,** . . . There he found some disciples<sup>2</sup> and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”<sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied.<sup>4</sup> Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”<sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.<sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.<sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

**The Spirit’s power, contained in the Gospel, **transforms** lives**

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<sup>1</sup> Wright, T. (2008). *Acts for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 13-28* (p. 113). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

**John's baptism: repentance**

**Jesus' baptism: Identity with the Triune God**

Acts 19:13–16,<sup>13</sup> Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.”<sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.<sup>15</sup> One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”<sup>16</sup> Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

**The Spirit's power, contained in the Gospel, exposes all counterfeits**

Acts 19:35–37,<sup>35</sup> The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Men of Ephesus, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?<sup>36</sup> Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and not do anything rash.<sup>37</sup> You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess.

**The Spirit's power, contained in the Gospel, affects culture**

**2 Corinthians 1:8–9**,<sup>8</sup> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.<sup>9</sup> Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

**The Spirit's power, contained in the Gospel, will sustain us**

## **Connect Group Discussion Guide – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### **OPENING**

What is your day-to-day relationship with the Holy Spirit like?

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. Read Acts 19:1-7. What was the difference between the baptism of John and the baptism of Jesus (cf. Mark 3:2-12)?
2. What was the purpose of these men speaking in tongues after receiving the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor. 14:22)?

Should the book of Acts be used as a doctrinal source on how one receives the Holy Spirit? Should we or should we not expect a new believer today to also speak in tongues?

3. Read Acts 19:8-12. For two years Paul discussed daily the word of God with his disciples in the school of Tyrannus (this is discipleship in action). What happened as a result? Did *all* the Jews and Gentiles who lived in the province of Asia really hear the word of the Lord as this time? What did Luke mean here by the term *all*?

Have you ever devoted yourself to a time of Bible study, whether discipling others or being disciplined yourself? What do you believe would happen within Bethany and within our local communities if we all likewise, devoted ourselves to discipleship?

4. Why did God perform through Paul such extraordinary miracles in Ephesus? Why were such miracles not recorded in every city

during Paul's missionary journeys? What was the primary purpose for these miracles?

God does still work miracles on a daily basis today. However, very rarely do such miracles happen in such a dramatic fashion as seen with Paul in Ephesus. What do you believe would be some of the advantages and disadvantages if God did performing miracles in a similar fashion today?

### **CHALLENGE**

In Galatians 5 we are called by God to "live by the Spirit of God." This week, read through Galatians 5:16-26 and list out in two separate columns the desires of our sinful nature (our flesh) and the fruit of the Spirit. Circle those sinful desires that you struggle with on a regular basis and those fruit of the Spirit that are lacking in your life. Pray over this list daily during your regular prayer time this week.

Read Acts 20 in preparation for next week.