

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 19:1-20 | LESSON SUMMARY

### The Holy Spirit

**ACTS 19:1**, "And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples." (ESV)

- Paul returns to Ephesus
  - Paul directly asks them about receiving the Holy Spirit
  - Confusion regarding the Holy Spirit: Paul distinguishes between Baptism of John and Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Possibly a different group of Christians than those Paul originally encountered

**ACTS 19:8**, "And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God." (ESV)

- Paul teaches as per usual at the synagogue, but eventually is unwelcome
  - σκληρύνω = hardened
- Borrows a school space from a Gentile named Tyrannus
  - Stays for two years
- Extraordinary miracles take place
  - Superstition regarding Paul's sweat cloths



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50,000 Drachmas

**ACTS 19:13**, "Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." (ESV)

- Seven sons of Sceva, Jewish High Priest
- Ephesus is a stronghold of demonic oppression
  - Center for cults, such as Artemis
  - Jewish exorcists attempt to use the authority of Jesus
    - "But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" (Acts 19:15, ESV)
- The demons knew Paul, they knew Jesus, but they did not know these two or respect their authority
  - The Sons of Sceva are severely beaten and stripped naked

**ACTS 19:18**, "Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices."

- Magic, sorcery and witchcraft; books of divination and spells



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- Confession = freedom
- Practitioners not only confess to using scrolls of sorcery, but they bring them to be burned in the sight of all

**ACTS 19:19**, "And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver." (ESV)

- \$50,000 Drachmas = \$1-5 million in today's currency
- This effectively releases the Holy Spirit to move all the more powerfully

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Zondervan, Holman Bible Atlas, Acts: Archeological Study Bible

