



Bible Study – March 20, 2024

A Study About Sharing Your Faith

Lesson 12: The Holy Spirit As Your Guide | Acts 19:8-12 (NIV)

Introduction

Divine Power is the Holy Spirit's power. Without the Holy Spirit's power, witnessing would be hopeless and pointless. When we examine the gospel accounts of Jesus' chosen disciples, we see ordinary men taught and disciplined by Him. Essentially, they were powerless when they followed Jesus in the ministry. As long as the Lord healed the sick, cast out demons, opened the eyes of the blind, and encouraged those disabled to walk, no divine power was working in them. Only when Jesus ascended into heaven and they went to the upper room did they receive the Holy Spirit's power to preach the gospel everywhere they went. Even today, we must move in the divine power of the Holy Spirit when witnessing our faith. How do we accomplish this? By knowing that GOD does not show partiality. Therefore, we can share our belief in the Holy Spirit's power. In this lesson, we will see how Apostle Paul functioned in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring souls into the kingdom of GOD.

Persuading the Gospel Truth

Acts 19:8-10

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

When Paul went to Ephesus, this was his third missionary journey through the cities in Asia Minor. He was going about strengthening the churches that he planted in these cities. However, Ephesus was a stronghold for the practice of idolatry and where the goddess Diana (Artemis) was worshiped. This gives us an idea of the spiritual temperature in that city. Whenever Paul would enter a town, it was his practice to find a local synagogue and get permission to speak there. He entered the synagogue in Ephesus and boldly spoke there for three months. He would argue (or debate) persuasively with the Jews regarding the truth about the kingdom of GOD. However, it was difficult for Paul to be convincing in his arguments with those who resisted him.

Eventually, Paul experienced those who were hard-hearted and violently opposed the gospel. The Jews who opposed his preaching were not impressed with hearing the truth from him. They were insensitive, heartless, uncaring, unkind, and unresponsive to anything Paul said. Instead, they spoke evil of the Way, which was the name for the Christians who proclaimed truth ([2 Peter 2:2](#)), righteousness ([2 Peter 2:21](#)), love ([1 Corinthians 12:31](#)), salvation ([Acts 16:17](#)), and such that the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed. Paul discerned that this attack on the Way was an attempt to



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discredit the gospel movement and could destroy the believers' Christian faith. So, he withdrew from preaching in the synagogue and relocated to the School of Tyrannus, where he brought the disciples with him. There, he preached daily in the school or lecture hall. Some theologians believed Paul taught daily from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, proclaiming the gospel.

This gospel preaching went on for two whole years. Paul's ministry reached Jews and Greeks living in the territories of Asia Minor and possibly beyond these territories. Ephesus was the principal city in the region, making it the ideal location to draw people passing through the city for commerce and worship. The word of the Lord that Paul preached was the doctrine of truth amid many different religious doctrines expressed in Ephesus.

Q. What three things happen to a person when they are filled with the Holy Spirit? (Clue – Acts 1:8) _____

The Working of Miracles

Acts 19:11-12

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured, and the evil spirits left them.

Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth about some spiritual gifts. One of those spiritual gifts mentioned is the working of miracles by the Holy Spirit. Paul operated in this particular gift while in Ephesus. He did extraordinary miracles that would be described as remarkable. These acts were divine and not common, and typical effects by men. There were people too sick from illnesses to come to Paul, so handkerchiefs and aprons he touched under the anointed power of the Holy Spirit were taken to them, and they were cured. This is similar to the woman who touched the hem of the Lord's garment and was healed ([Matthew 9:20-22](#)).

The working of miracles in that region contributed to the spread and success of the gospel. The emphasis of the power in which Paul acted was the power of the Holy Spirit and not his effectiveness. Properly understood, this great power represented GOD'S signs and wonders on display through Paul. Nobody but HIM could receive the glory. Sick people were being healed, and demon-possessed people were being delivered from the evil spirits. Some important words to remember when operating in the spiritual gifts are the following: [All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. \[1 Corinthians](#)



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12:11] Today, the Holy Spirit gives us the spiritual gifts needed as He wills to witness the gospel everywhere we go.

Q. If you are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, what things must be emptied of you? (Clue – Colossians 3:5-9) _____

Endnotes

1. Drs. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament* (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1983) 410.
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