

The Word of the Lord

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Acts 19:8-20

An Outline of Paul's 2nd and 3rd Missionary journeys:

- **Second Journey (Acts 15:40-Acts 18:22) AD 49-52 about 2.5-3 years**
 - Ephesus–Acts 18:19-21 (1st Visit)
 - Caesarea & Jerusalem – Acts 18:22
- **Third Journey (Acts 18:23-21:24) AD 53-57 about three years.**
 - Antioch of Syria (Acts 18:23)
 - Mitylene (Acts 20:14)
 - Galatia & Phrygia (Acts 18:23)
 - Chios, Samos, Miletus (Acts 20:15-17)
 - Ephesus (Acts 19)
 - Cos, Rhodes, Patara (Acts 21:1-2)
 - Macedonia (Acts 20:1-2)
 - Tyre (Acts 21:3-6)
 - Corinth (Acts 20:2-3)
 - Ptolemais (Acts 21:7)
 - Philippi (Acts 20:5-6)
 - Caesarea (Acts 21:8-14)
 - Troas (Acts 20:6-12)
 - Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-17)
 - Assos (Acts 20:13-14)

Ever since the Fall in Eden, people have lived in rebellion against God. Men and women imagine themselves to be free, but they are not. Instead, we are deeply enslaved to sin and to Satan. Lost men and women live in spiritual deception. **John 8:34**, *Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.* Later, Paul reminded the Ephesians: **Ephesians 2:1–2**, *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.*

Satan has two means of manipulation on men and women. First, he influences their minds (**2 Corinthians 4:4**, *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*) Note, **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**. Taking every thought captive can only be done through the lens of Scripture.

Second, Satan exerts influence on fallen human will, though he cannot force it to act. This is through temptation and the desires of the fallen nature (**John 8:44**). As our Lord did while in the wilderness facing Satan and temptation, regenerated people must also use the Word of God as their weapon against Satan's snares.

In the book of Acts, it is the proclamation of the Word over signs, wonders, miracles, and exorcisms. Acts 6:4. In Acts 19:20, we see how the Word of God dominated the city of Ephesus.

I. Paul's Boldness with the Word (Acts 19:8-10)

- A. The Bold Proclamation – God's rule over His creation as King. (**Acts 19:8**)
 - 1. The Kingdom
 - a) John the Baptist was the first to proclaim about its arrival (**Matthew 3:2**, *Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*)
 - b) Jesus came to overthrow Satan's opposition to God's kingdom (**Mark 3:22-27**)
 - c) Jesus describes the kingdom through parable in the gospels (**Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 13**)
 - d) The Kingdom and the gospel become interchangeable (**Acts 1:3, 8:12, 19:8; 28:23**)
 - 2. The Message
 - a) Reasoning – conversing, discussing, arguing, dialoging (answering questions & challenges). Argumentatively, he gave reasons and Scripture. Answered objections. Paul's speaking out boldly was continual
 - b) Persuading – convince by argument. Cause someone to adopt a certain position, belief.
- B. The Divisive Reaction (There are two effects of the Word of God (Make Alive/Hardening))
 - 1. Stubborn
 - a) Underwent the process of hardening (stubborn). Deceitfulness of sin (**Hebrews 3:13**, *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*)

- b) Continued in Unbelief
 - c) Speaking Evil of “the Way.”
 - 2. Believing
 - a) Withdrew and Reasoned (Dialogue) daily
 - b) In the hall of Tyrannus (The Tyrant)
- C. The Faithful Resilience (Acts 19:10)
 - 1. Paul continued 2 years
 - 2. All the residents heard, the Word of the Lord.

II. Paul’s Confirmation in Miracles (Acts 19:11-12)

- A. God Authenticated Paul’s preaching by signs and miracles. (2 Cor 12:12, cf. Acts 2:22) 2
Corinthians 12:12, *The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works. Cf Acts 2:22, “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—*
 - 1. God was the miracle worker (11)
 - 2. Paul was the instrument (11)
- B. God used Paul’s articles to heal (12). The forces of pagan magic were confronted by the infinite power of God.
 - 1. Simon the magician in Samaria (Acts 8:9-13)
 - 2. Elymas (Bar-Jesus) in Cyprus (Acts 13:6-11)
 - 3. The slave girl in Philippi (Acts 16:16-18)
 - 4. Those practicing magic arts in Ephesus (Acts 19:19)

III. Paul’s Competition in Deliverance (Acts 19:13-16)

- A. The Itinerant Jewish, exorcists use the name of the Lord in their incantations (13)
 - 1. There are records of extensive ceremonies and spoken formulas that Jewish people in the first century used to try to free themselves from the influence of evil spirits; not likely they were effective given the people’s reaction to Jesus (**Luke 4:36**)
- B. These were seven sons of the high priest, Sceva. Not much is known (14)
- C. The evil spirit does not recognize the sons as a spiritual authority. (15)
 - 1. **Matthew 8:28–29**, *And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. 29 And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”*
 - 2. **Luke 4:33–34**, *And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”*
 - 3. The attack, injury, and embarrassment. (16)

IV. The Ephesian’s Conviction & Repentance (Acts 19:17-19)

- A. The fear of the Lord fell upon all (17)
- B. The name of the Lord Jesus was extolled (megalynō – exalt, glorify, magnify)

V. The Word’s Domination of human hearts (Acts 19:20)

- A. God’s word continued to increase (circulate more; to travel; widespread; well known; physically larger.
- B. God’s word prevailed mightily
 - 1. It is sufficient
 - 2. Power to direct, determine, govern.
 - 3. No credit given to human skill

VI. The Light for our Path

- A. Read the Bible – follow a plan.
- B. Listen to the Bible – follow along as its read.
- C. Study the Bible – sound teachers.
- D. Memorize the Bible – app tools.
- E. Obey the Bible – in life.