

# **Unstuck: How the Apostle Paul Changed the World**

Lesson 5

Acts 19:1-41

December 19, 2021

## **The Church Grows by Spiritual Power**

### **Introduction**

The Christian life can be characterized as learned dependence on God. This idea runs totally counter to everything we're taught in our culture. We teach our children from an early age, "You can do anything you put your mind to," and other phrases like that. However, the Christian life is categorically different. It is learning that we are entirely dependent on God working through us and in us to accomplish His purposes.

Think of it like a toaster in your kitchen. It might look shiny when you first buy it and come with the best technology money can buy. However, unless it is plugged into an electricity source, it is entirely useless and not exactly a pretty decoration.

The same goes for followers of Christ. Unless we are plugged into our source of God and allow for Him to work through us and recognize that He alone does the work, we might look great on the outside, but we are not fulfilling what God has created us to do.

***Memory verse: "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."—Acts 19:11-12***

Pray and read Acts 19:1-41. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

## **What does the passage say?**

1. What had some disciples at Ephesus not received?  
(Acts 19:1-2)
2. What had they received? (Acts 19:3)
3. What happened when Paul placed his hands on these disciples? (Acts 19:6)
4. Who did the extraordinary miracles through Paul?  
(Acts 19:11-12)
5. What happened to the sons of Sceva? (Acts 19:13-16)
6. What happened after these events? (Acts 19:17-20)
7. Briefly describe what the cause of the riots was.  
(Acts 19:21-41)
8. What was Paul's response? (Acts 19:30)

## **What does the passage mean?**

1. The disciples that Paul came across had not even heard of the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we believe the Holy Spirit is one member of the Trinity, God in three persons. What does the Holy Spirit do? (Isaiah 11:2; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 14:26; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26)
  
2. God worked through Paul, and not the other way around. Why is it important to understand that God, through His Holy Spirit, does the work of using us and growing us? (1 Corinthians 12:6, 15:10; Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; Colossians 1:28-29)
  
3. Why do we rely on God to work through us rather than trusting our strength? (Psalm 27:1; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, 10:13; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Ephesians 2:8-10)

4. What happens when we rely on our strength alone?  
(John 15:5; Acts 19:13-16; Galatians 5:16, 19-21, 6:8)

### **Applying the passage**

1. What has happened when you've relied on your strength in trying to live for Jesus and serve Him?

2. How can a person start to learn to identify how God is working in their life?

3. It is challenging to learn to trust in God's power to be your strength and work through you. It takes prayer and stepping forward in faith to do what He's placed in front of you. So, write out a prayer below asking God to work through you and be obedient to what He's put in front of you.