



ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 19

Lesson 16

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia (Acts 16:6). And it happened...that Paul, having passed through the upper regions came to Ephesus. The time has finally arrived and the door of ministry now opens to Ephesus, and all of Asia. Let's walk through that door with Paul and learn from what he experienced.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 19

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Paul*.
Key Words: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Paul, believed, word, baptized/baptism, and Way*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used eight times in Acts 19. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used three times in Acts 19. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

DID YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN YOU BELIEVED? Read Acts 19:1-10

1. Acts 19:1 informs us that Paul found disciples in Ephesus. What did he ask them? verse 2
 - a. What was their answer?
2. Acts 19:7 reveals that Paul was addressing *twelve* men. According to Acts 19:1,2, what can we know about these men?
 - a. Knowing they were *believers*, what did Paul ask them in verse 3?
 - 1.) What was their answer?
 - 2.) Read Acts 18:24,25. Apollos, *an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures*, had been to Ephesus. What *baptism* did he only know?
 - a.) Whether Apollos taught only the baptism of John in Ephesus or whether he too was a recipient of this incomplete teaching in that city, what can we learn from this about the importance of accurate teaching?
 - b.) Record Jesus' instructions about baptizing in Matthew 28:19
3. These men, since they had *not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit*, were apparently not baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the *Holy Spirit*. What followed their understanding of Jesus' instructions regarding *baptism*? Acts 19:5
4. After they were baptized, *Paul laid hands on them*. What happened?

Challenge: Choose one of the accounts from Acts 2, 8, or 10 and share how it parallels this account of the Holy Spirit coming upon believers.

5. What do you think prompted Paul to ask these *disciples* if they had *received the Holy Spirit*?

6. Use the following verses to confirm what happens the moment a person becomes a believer.
Romans 8:9

Galatians 4:6

Ephesians 1:13
 - a. Since all believers *receive* the Holy Spirit when they believe, what was Paul asking these twelve men?
7. Something caused Paul to sense that these men were not walking in the fullness of the work of the Holy Spirit. What might be some signs or evidences of that?
 - a. What are some signs or evidences of a person who is walking in the fullness of the work of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. Personal challenge: whether you believe in the baptism (coming upon) of the Holy Spirit as a separate experience from salvation or not, how do you think you would respond if someone asked you (after watching how you live), "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"
8. Acts 19:8-10 record Paul going into the synagogue and speaking boldly concerning the *things of the kingdom of God*. What was the response of *some*.
 - a. Paul did not give up, but *withdrew from those who were hardened and did not believe*. Paul's pattern was to go to the Jews first. Where did Paul teach for the next two years?
 - 1.) What was the result?
9. What do you learn from Paul's example with:
the twelve disciples

those who were hardened and did not believe

reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus

JESUS I KNOW, AND PAUL I KNOW; BUT WHO ARE YOU? Read Acts 19:11-19

1. During the time Paul was in Ephesus, *God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul*. Using Acts 19:12, describe those miracles.
2. As others saw God working miracles through Paul, they attempted to copy his way of ministering. What did these *itinerant Jewish exorcists* say to those *who had evil spirits*?
 - a. Look carefully at these words. How do their words reveal their lack of relationship with Jesus?
 - b. What was the *evil spirit's* response:
verbally:

physically:
3. In contrast, read Acts 16:16-18 and record the response of the evil spirit to Paul's charge, *I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her*.
4. Considering the two different responses of the evil spirits, if you came into contact with someone who was demon possessed, what would you do? Why?
5. Share from each of the following verses the result of all that was taking place in Ephesus, particularly after the incident with the "unsuccessful" *exorcists*.
verse 17

verse 18

verse 19

verse 20
6. Slowly read the first sentence of verse 19. What are some things that you have *burned* as a Christian?
 - a. To ponder: What might the Lord be calling you to *burn* today in response to His calling you to a walk that reflects the Holy Spirit's rule over your life?

THE RIOT AT EPHEBUS: Acts 19:21-41

1. As the word of the Lord was growing *mightily and prevailing* in Ephesus, what two desires began to take hold in Paul's heart?
2. Paul sent Timothy and Erastus on ahead of him into Macedonia, but he stayed on a while longer in Asia. *And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way* (verse 23). Paul had once reacted similarly to those of *the Way*. What can we learn about this from Acts 9:1,2?
3. Scan the story of Demetrius and his attempt to overthrow Paul's ministry and answer the following questions:
 - a. What was the motivation of Demetrius in stirring up opposition to Paul and his ministry? verses 24,25
 - b. What teaching of Paul was undermining the profitable businesses of these men? verse 26
 - c. In verse 27, Demetrius gave a further reason for the need to stop Paul. What was his other reason?
 - d. How did the city clerk respond to this concern? verses 35,36
 - e. If this really wasn't a concern, but perhaps only a method of stirring up the people, what was really the only concern of Demetrius?
 - f. From verse, 28,29, and 32, in a few words, how did the crowd respond to Demetrius?
 - g. How was Paul kept from being harmed in this riot? verses 30,31
 - h. How was this situation finally resolved?
4. What are your thoughts after studying this event?
5. How does money sometimes cause us to compromise our values?
6. What does this event teach you about being on guard against convincing speakers?
7. What price did Paul and his friends pay for doing what was right?

REVIEW: Read Acts 19

1. How does an understanding of the Holy Spirit affect the life of a believer?
2. How do you determine if or when it is time to "move on" when someone is hardened to the gospel?
3. Why is it important to examine our motives?
4. Most of us will not encounter someone who is demon possessed. Yet, each of us encounters believers and unbelievers who are trapped by Satan. What are some practical ways to oppose Satan's efforts.
5. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*
-Isaiah 55:11

So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.
-Acts 19:20

Observation Worksheet

Acts 19:1-41

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ² he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." ³ And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. ⁷ Now the men were about twelve in all. ⁸ And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. ¹¹ Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴ Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ¹⁶ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. ¹⁸ And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. ¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. ²¹ When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²² So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time. ²³ And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. ²⁴ For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. ²⁵ He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. ²⁶ Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. ²⁷ So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple

of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." ²⁸ Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" ²⁹ So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. ³⁰ And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. ³¹ Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. ³² Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. ³⁴ But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" ³⁵ And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? ³⁶ Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. ³⁸ Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. ⁴⁰ For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.