

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## Third Missionary Journey

### Jesus vs. the Occult

**Acts 19:11-12 (NIV)** “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, <sup>12</sup>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 19:13 (NIV)** “Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, ‘In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.’”

**Acts 19:14-15 (NIV)** “Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup>One day the evil spirit answered them, ‘Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?’”

**Acts 19:16 (NIV)** “Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.”

**Acts 19:17 (NIV)** “When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.”

**Acts 19:18-19 (NIV)** “Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.”

**Acts 19:20 (NIV)** “In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.”

### How does the evil one attack people today?

#### Level Three = Possession

##### ***How do you know when someone is demon-possessed?***

*Compiled by Dr. Sam Storms*

- Extraordinary physical strength (Mark 5:3-4; Acts 19:13-16)*
- Fits of rage or extremely violent behavior (Mark 5:4b; Matthew 8:28)*
- Vocal tirades and screaming (Mark 5:5a)*
- Self-destructive behavior (Mark 5:5b, 13; Matthew 17:14-20)*
- Extreme antisocial behavior (Luke 8:27)*
- Some physical diseases (Matthew 9:32-34; Luke 13:10-17)*
- Alien voices speak through the victim (Mark 5:7, 9; Acts 19)*
- Resistance to spiritual things (Mark 5:7)*

**2 Corinthians 6:14<sub>b</sub>-15 (NIV)** “Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup>What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?”

#### Level Two = Oppression

**Acts 10:38 (NASV)** “[Jesus] went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil...”

## Level One = Temptation

**1 Thessalonians 3:5<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you...”

**Luke 4:2<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “...for forty days he was tempted by the devil.”

### **Three ways to have victory over the evil one:**

#### 1. Call on Jesus for His help.

**2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)** “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

**Matthew 6:13 (NIV)** “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

**John 17:15 (NIV)** “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

#### 2. Submit your home, time, and your heart to the Lord.

**Luke 11:24-26 (NIV)** “When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’<sup>25</sup>When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order.<sup>26</sup>Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.”

**James 4:7 (NIV)** “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

#### 3. Throw away everything that has any connection to the occult.

**Deuteronomy 18:10-12<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,<sup>11</sup> or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.<sup>12</sup> Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD...”

**Acts 19:18-19 (NIV)** “Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.<sup>19</sup> A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.”

### **THE DEMONIC WORLD CAN BE SCARY BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID!**

**Luke 10:17 (NIV)** “The seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.’”

**Luke 10:18 (NIV)** “He replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’”