

# ACTS 19

## The Power of the Spirit

*22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' - Matthew 7:22*

### Digging Deeper

This week in Acts chapter 19 we experience the often imitated, but never replicated genuine power of the Holy Spirit. As we looked at the culture we discovered that exorcism was actually a pretty significant business, as was making idols of silver, but the first part of our story captivated my interest most. Some 'would-be' exorcists called upon the name of Jesus to exorcise a demon. However, the demon replied "Jesus we know, Paul we know. But who are you?" this for me is telling of much of our culture today. Many people claim to be 'spiritual' or religious, catholic or Christian without EVER having a genuine relationship with God. We want the title, we want access to His power and blessing, but we don't want the relationship. In the case of these exorcists, they were so insignificant that they were indistinguishable by the spirit world. Not even recognized as a threat, they were beaten and humiliated. Imagine being so little of a threat to the enemy, that not only do the demons not recognize you, but even Jesus doesn't acknowledge you as one of His own. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (MT 7:22-23) Many people claim to serve God, some even profit as spiritualists, performing 'miracles' or imitating God. But as scripture shows, God's power is bigger than anything in this world, and the forces of darkness will never be able to truly replicate it, or undo it. Real power comes from real authority. That is the authority of Christ. And those who work real miracles ALWAYS give credit to God. What does this mean for a Christian who does or doesn't have a genuine relationship with Christ?

***If you're feeling froggy, Read Exodus 7-11. Discuss How each plague mocked the Egyptian gods and magicians.***

### Discussion Questions

1. How do you see the world trying to replicate the works, miracles, or blessings from God? We can easily make an idol of a miracle or blessing God has given us. How can we focus on the giver rather than the gift?
2. What miracles or blessings have you seen from God in your life? How do these miracles in your life demonstrate the power, sovereignty, and compassionate nature of God? Are there any other attributes of God that are displayed through His blessings?
3. Our own power is inadequate at best. How often do we neglect the power we have access to through our relationship with God? Whose power are we walking in today? The Lord's, ours, or something worse?
4. Only God has the power to transform lives. He does this through the power of The Word and the Spirit working in unison to 'create you new in Christ'. When you first believed, what changed? How can you track your spiritual growth over the years?
5. The voice of evil is often seductive and profitable. The Holy Spirit will always expose the lie while speaking the truth. Jesus calls us out of worldly prosperity, to forsake the lies and temporary riches of this world to enter into a richness of spirit. How has God set you free from a lie?