

A close-up photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, set against a warm, golden, and slightly hazy background. The lighting is soft and directional, creating a sense of hope and connection. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers slightly curled as if about to grasp each other. The overall mood is uplifting and inspirational.

**YOU CAN MAKE**

**A DIFFERENCE**

**We are to**



**into all the world...**

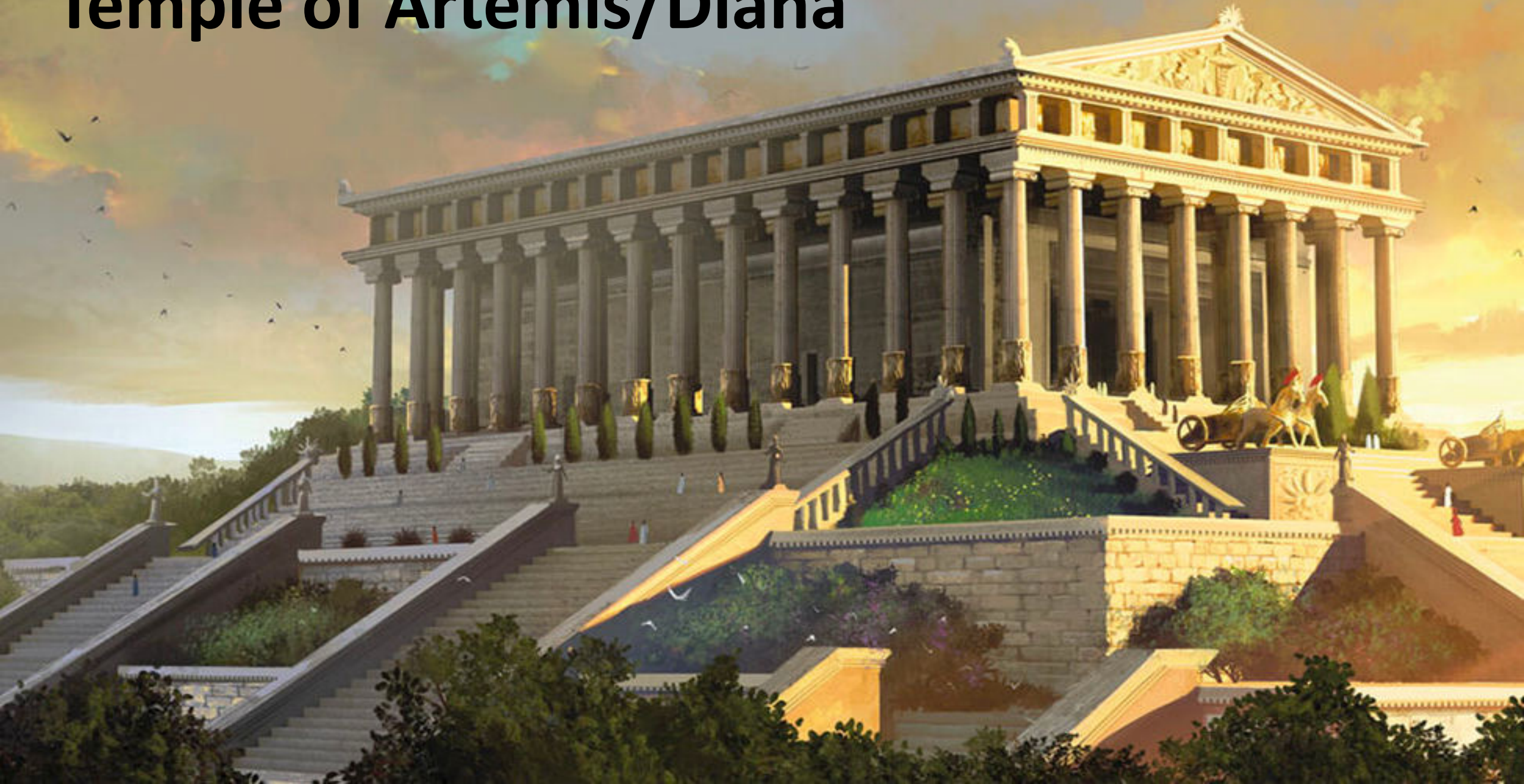


# Ancient Ephesus





# Temple of Artemis/Diana







MACEDONIA

BITHYNIA

GALATIA

ACHAIA

ASIA

CILICIA

Ephesus

LYCIA

Antioch

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Antioch

Mediterranean Sea

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
54-58 AD

Jerusalem



“While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. **2** “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” **3** “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. And they replied, “The baptism of John.” **4** Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**



to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.” **5** As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. **7** There were about twelve men in all. **8** Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. **9** But some became stubborn, rejecting his

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**



message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. **10** This went on for the next two years, so that **people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.** **11** God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. **12** When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**



of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled. **13** A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!” **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. **15** But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” **16** Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**

them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. **17** The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. **A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. 18** Many who became **believers confessed their sinful practices. 19** A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books **and burned them** at a public bonfire.

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**



The value of the books was several million dollars. **20** So the message about the Lord **spread widely and had a powerful effect.** **21** Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. “And after that,” he said, “I must go on to Rome!” **22** He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia. **23** About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**

the Way. **24** It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy. **25** He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows: “Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. **26** But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has **persuaded many people that handmade gods aren’t really gods at all.** And he’s done

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**



this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! **27** Of course, I'm not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis **will lose its influence** and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—**will be robbed of her great prestige!**" **28** At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, "Great is Artemis of

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**

the Ephesians!” **29** Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia. **30** Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn’t let him. **31** Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater. **32** Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another.

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**



Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. **33** The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. **34** But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **35** At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. "Citizens of

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**

Ephesus,” he said. “Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven. **36** Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. **37** You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess. **38** “If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once.

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**

Let them make formal charges. **39** And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. **40** I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won't know what to say." **41** Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed."

**Acts 19:1-41 (NLT)**



A silhouette of a man with a beard, looking out at a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow behind him. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with hills or mountains.

# ONE Man Made a Difference

**Acts 19:2–5 (NLT) — “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”** he asked them. ‘No,’ they replied, ‘we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ **3** ‘Then what baptism did you experience?’ he asked. And they replied, ‘**The baptism of John.**’ **4** Paul said, ‘**John’s baptism called for repentance from sin.** But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.’ **5** As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

**Acts 19:8 (NLT) — “Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, **arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God.**”**



A close-up photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, set against a warm, golden, glowing background. The hands are positioned as if about to clasp or support each other, conveying a sense of care, support, and human connection. The lighting is soft and ethereal, highlighting the contours of the hands.

**YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE**

**1. Knowledge**

# Knowledge:

- John's baptism prepared them for the **COMING** of the Messiah
- Paul knew the Messiah **HAD COME**



# Knowledge:

- John's baptism prepared them for the **COMING** of the Messiah
  - Paul knew the Messiah **HAD COME**
- Paul's **ACCURATE** knowledge of God's Word brought **SAVING FAITH** to these disciples



YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE





To Have an  
**ACCURATE**  
**KNOWLEDGE** of  
the Bible You  
Need to **STUDY**  
**IT DAILY**



A close-up photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, set against a warm, golden, and slightly hazy background. The lighting is soft and directional, highlighting the contours of the hands and creating a sense of hope and connection. The overall mood is positive and inspiring.

**YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE**

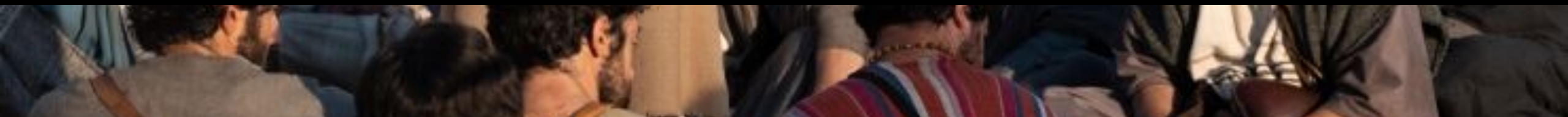
**2. Power**

**Acts 19:6 (NLT)** — “Then when Paul laid his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them**, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.”





Jesus Gave the Great Commission to **ALL** the Disciples



**Luke 24:49 (NLT)** — “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and **fills you with power from heaven.**”

**Acts 1:8 (NLT)** — “But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.** And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”





We Preach a **SUPERNATURAL GOSPEL!**

**Acts 19:15 (NIV)** — “One day the evil spirit answered them, **‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?’”**

**1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (NLT)** — “When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God’s secret plan. **2** For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. **4** And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, **I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.** **5 I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.”**





God **WANTS** to **FILL**  
**YOU** So You'll Be an  
**EFFECTIVE** Witness



**2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NIV84)** — “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. **2** People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, **4** treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— **5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with them.”

# To Make a Difference We Need:

1. Knowledge of God's Word
2. Power of the Holy Spirit



The image features two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other in a gesture of connection or support. The hands are set against a warm, golden, and slightly hazy background that creates a sense of depth and light. The overall tone is positive and inspiring.

**YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE**

**3. Community**

**Acts 19:9–10 (NLT)** — “But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and **took the believers with him**. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. **10** This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.”

**Acts 19:22 (NLT)** — “He sent **his two assistants**, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia.”

**Acts 19:29 (NLT)** — “Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were **Paul’s traveling companions** from Macedonia.”





# The Local Church Was **GOD'S** Idea



**The Church at  
Ephesus Started  
with 12 Believers  
Who Came  
Together Daily to  
Be Taught**



# The Ephesian Church:

- Used their gifts and talents
- Gave of their resources and finances
- Submitted to Paul's leadership
- Were teachable, willing to serve, willing to sacrifice



**Acts 19:22 (NLT)** — “He sent **his two assistants**, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia.”

**Acts 19:29 (NLT)** — “Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, **dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus**, who were Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.”





Would **YOU** Be Dragged Away?

**John 17:23 (NLT)** — “I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.”

**Romans 15:5–6 (NLT)** — “May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. **6** Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Ephesians 4:1–3 (NLT)** — “Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. **2** Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. **3** Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.”



**Ephesians 4:11–13 (NLT)** — “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12** Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. **13** This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.”

**Colossians 3:14 (NLT)** — “Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

# To Make a Difference We Need:

1. Knowledge of God's Word
2. Power of the Holy Spirit
3. Joined together in Community



YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE

A close-up photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other. The hands are positioned as if about to clasp or support each other. The background is a warm, golden glow with soft light rays, creating a sense of hope and inspiration. The overall tone is positive and uplifting.

**YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE**

**4. Obedience**



**Acts 19:10 (NLT)** — “This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.”



**into all the world.**





**into all the world.**



**be a witness.**





**into all the world.**



**be a witness.**



**to the highways & byways  
and invite people to come  
to the feast.**



Paul's personal **OBEDIENCE** started  
a **CHAIN** that links all the way to  
someone you know **TODAY...**



# To Make a Difference We Need:

1. Knowledge of God's Word
2. Power of the Holy Spirit
3. Joined together in Community
4. Obedience



YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE

**2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT)** — “The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.”



A close-up photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, set against a warm, golden, and slightly hazy background. The lighting is soft and directional, creating a sense of hope and connection. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers slightly curled as if about to grasp each other. The overall mood is uplifting and inspirational.

**YOU CAN MAKE**

**A DIFFERENCE**