

ACTS CHAPTER 19  
TEXT AND COMMENTARY

**19** 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."

**SOME BELIEVERS BECOME CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

It can be presumed that Christian converts can be made without full knowledge of what Jesus the Messiah had intended of his disciples. **We who believe are disciples** and just as his original disciples, we are commanded to receive the gift of Holy Spirit (dunamis power) to enable us to grow and to minister. Today there are teachings by respected authorities who say all Christians have this Holy Spirit. Christians are to be told to repent and be baptized and they proceed to do this without the full understanding of the *Gift of God*. The gift of God consists of Spiritual rebirth' becoming a partaker in the Lord's divine nature; becoming an adopted son of God; becoming a part of the Body of Christ; and receiving power to experience God and testify of these experiences.

**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." John the baptist came as a forerunner to the one who would follow -- who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John baptized for the remission of sin in a time before the "new creation" had manifested.

**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. We see the power of the Holy Spirit fall upon those who formerly were not fully immersed in the power of God. These authentic believers had but a mental consent to the identity of Jesus as the risen Messiah. I will assert that the Holy Spirit indowment with power is a subsequent act of grace. The proof remains the same as at the beginning; the glorifying of God, speaking with other tongues and giving glory to God.

**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. The effectiveness of Paul's ministry in Ephesus at this time is understated. The ongoing demonstration of the power of the Spirit among the people of Ephesus is having an impact. We might say it is challenging the goddess Diana worship and it is challenging the status of the Jewish religion as well. It is in fact causing changes in the life and culture of Ephesus.

## Miracles Glorify Christ

**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 **[b]** them, and prevailed against them, **[c]** 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. The story of Sceva's sons is significant on many levels. First Sceva was of the tradition of Moses and Jewish religion. They were no doubt convinced that their status before the demonic was adequate to exorcise these devils. It was not. Demonic entities know who's who among the people of God and any unredeemed person. Those who are born of God have authority over every power of the enemy. (Ephes. 6 and Mark 16) We need to be aware that those who believe are sealed 'marked' with the Holy Spirit unto the day of our redemption as fully manifest sons of God. (Ephes.4.30)

**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. We notice that Paul gives special mentions regarding Spiritual warfare and powers in heavenly places in his epistle to Ephesus. It was a seat of strong demonic influence as it was the home of the great temple of Diana of Ehesus, at the time one of the 7 wonders of the world.

## Unrest and Riots at Ephesus

**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, **[d]** 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, **[e]** whom all Asia and the world worship." Temple worship in Ephesus was a religious activity that was similar to temple worship in Jerusalem. It had economic off shoots. Pilgrims coming into the city would purchase statuary of Diana for their personal worship or for their shrines of

devotion. In Jerusalem there were the money changers and those who sold animals for sacrifice. Jesus dealt with them in one of his visits to the temple, angrily declaring that you have made my Father's house into a house of merchandise.

**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!" *Alexander the coppersmith, mentioned here at one time appears to have been converted and an important worker in the way, but Paul at a later time mentions him by name as one who essentially turned against him, "- he has done me much harm. - may the Lord reward him according to his deeds. - (" 2Tim.4:14)*

**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 **[f]** 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.