



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 19-20
- II Timothy 4:6-8

LESSONS ON SALVATION!

- The Holy Spirit
- Bound to Jerusalem

Ten weeks ago, during our introduction, I used 2 Corinthians 5:17 as part of my opening lines. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” Every week thereafter, I have opened up our time together by briefly expanding on each individual attribute of the fruit of the Spirit. Given the opening lines of our scripture reading today, I believe God desires we dig deeper into the subject. In today’s study, Acts chapter 19 begins with the Apostle Paul asking certain disciples, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Do you find this question odd? Does it make you wonder why it is that the apostle Paul asked the question in the first place. The more I thought about the reason why he would ask the question, the more I kept coming back to the thought that he would probably be equally aghast if he was to visit most congregations

today! In today's study, let's make sure we know who the Holy Spirit is, lest we be found guilty of the same indictment! As basic as this part of our doctrine is, I would not want to be held accountable for assuming everyone within the sound of my voice can answer the question properly, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

PROPHETIC SEED:

"And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 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."** And he said to them, **"Into what then were you baptized?"** So they said, **"Into John's baptism."** 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."" Acts 19:1-4 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

"When they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** And when Paul had laid hands on them, **the Holy Spirit**

came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Now the men were about twelve in all.” Acts 19:5-7 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week in [A Man on a Mission](#) Paul revisited the cities of his first missionary journey to check on the new converts and he arrived in Derbe and Lystra; that's where he met Timothy. Paul took Timothy with him as he intended to travel back through his previous ministry destinations. Before they left together, Paul circumcised Timothy because he knew the disposition of the Jews in those destinations; they will know Timothy's father is Greek and Paul does not want to add to the controversy. But something extraordinary happened. As they headed north, the Holy Spirit directed them to bypass the cities of Asia. These are cities where the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 are located. On his journey, Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man who was begging him to come to Macedonia to bring help, which he naturally assumed meant to bring them the gospel of salvation.

Paul and his party arrived in Philippi, the major city in the lower region of Macedonia, and that is where he met Lydia. She's from Thyatira in central Asia, one of the cities Paul bypassed on his

way to Macedonia via the Spirit's prompting, and she seemed to be quite the entrepreneur. Paul shared the gospel and her whole household came to faith and was baptized.

Paul and Silas were eventually beaten and imprisoned in Philippi after Paul delivered a slave girl from demonic possession; she was being used as the object of a lucrative fortune-telling racket. The owners of this slave-girl were furious that Paul ruined their business, by casting out the demonic spirit, and they had them tossed into the deep recesses of a Philippian prison. Paul and Silas responded by worshipping God openly from their cell. God intervened overnight and shook the prison with an earthquake and loosed the shackles from their feet and the prison gates were flung open. The prison warden was ready to take his own life, thinking all the prisoners had escaped, when Paul stopped him, indicating he was still there. The warden's entire family came to faith and was baptized as a result of what they witnessed.

The city judges wanted to secretly release them that next morning, but Paul was not happy about being part of an unjust public beating, then only to be released privately without someone being held accountable for their illegal actions. Paul made sure the city officials were informed that both He and Silas were Roman citizens, who were treated contrary to Roman law. The officials were petrified they would be exposed to and then held accountable

by Rome. So, they begged Paul and Silas to leave quietly. Paul graciously agreed and they stopped to visit Lydia's household on their way out of Philippi.

They left Philippi and came to Thessalonica. Paul taught in the synagogue as usual and used the scriptures to prove that Y'shua was the long-awaited Messiah. And yet again, the Jews who did not believe became jealous. They even went to the home that was hosting Paul and Silas to caused trouble and when they could not find them, they dragged the homeowner in front of city officials and accused him of breaking Roman law. He was fined and released.

The local church thought it best to have Paul and Silas leave Thessalonica and they sent them off to Berea. Things were better there. Instead of reacting violently in an effort to protect their old belief systems, the Bereans were more reasonable, humble, and open-minded than the jealous Jews in Thessalonica. They listened to what Paul had to say and then they searched the word of God themselves to prove or disprove what they were hearing. It was all good until Jews from Thessalonica came over to cause trouble. Silas and Timothy stayed behind in Berea, and Paul left for Athens.

In Athens, Paul found a city filled with philosophers who were interested in anything new that they might use to enhance their philosophy. Paul noticed they were very religious, fastidious about the gods they worshipped and how they would not risk missing a

god they didn't know about, so they even had an alter to THE UNKNOWN GOD. Paul used their religious zeal to introduce them to the ONE TRUE GOD by telling them, "I know who your unknown God is!" Paul left Athens and some of the philosophers joined him.

From Athens Paul headed to Corinth. That is where he met Aquila and his wife Priscilla and this was where Silas and Timothy catch up to him. It was in Corinth that Paul famously said to the Jewish people, who refused to see the truth, that it was time to leave them and focus on the Gentiles. God told Paul to be bold in Corinth, unafraid of persecution, because he would be protected. That was refreshing for Paul as he had already faced quite a bit of violent persecution on his first mission. Plus he and Silas were recently flogged and imprisoned in Philippi in Macedonia. He stayed in Corinth for eighteen months and even when he was accused and brought before the proconsul, nothing happens to him, just like God promised. It did not go so well for Sosthenes, however, the ruler of the synagogue who believed. He was beaten before he was released.

Paul remained in Corinth for quite some time and then headed back to Antioch in Syria. Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He stopped off in Ephesus and ministered there. He left Priscilla and Aquila behind in Ephesus and headed back to Antioch. That is

where they met Apollos, a Jewish man born in Alexandria (Egypt) who came to Ephesus. He was well-spoken, well-versed in Scriptures, and well-instructed in the way of the Lord. He was also quite fervent. He had solid teachings about Christ, but knew only the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila added to his knowledge of God's ways by apparently introducing him to the Holy Spirit. He became a powerful tool for the kingdom as he sailed to Achaia (Greece) to minister to those whom Paul had recently brought to the faith.

This week Paul begins his third missionary journey and will, on the front end, spend two years in Ephesus. The first thing he does is introduce the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as it seems they still don't understand, even though Aquila and Priscilla had stayed behind in Ephesus on the last trip and introduced the idea to Apollos. As usual, those in the synagogue, who refused the truth, caused problems and spoke evil of the Way and Paul need to spend most of his time teaching outside the synagogue, gathering at the school of Tyrannus. There was such an anointing on Paul's life that even garments that he touched carried the grace of God to heal the sick and deliver people.

At some point a traveling circus show of exorcists arrives in Ephesus and they attempt to invoke the name of Jesus to cast out a demon, but as they are not true believers, they do so by referring to

Christ as the one Paul knows. The demon uses the possessed man to beat these seven pseudo-exorcists to a pulp. They are actually seven brothers, sons of a Jewish priest, and they are caused to run out of the house naked and humiliated. The entire episode served as an amazing witness and it caused those in the area dabbling in witchcraft to collect all their magic books and to burn them in a massive blaze. It was an extremely expensive sacrifice and God's word spread powerfully in Ephesus as it prevailed over the darkness of witchcraft.

After the radical transformation of those once embroiled with the occult and the book burning, Paul has an inspiration from the Holy Spirit. "From Ephesus, I am going up through Macedonia, down into Greece, and then I am heading back to Jerusalem. And from there I will be heading to Rome." A commotion then erupts in Ephesus because the silver craftsmen become aware that the more Paul leads people away from their paganism, the more money they lose on their lucrative idol worship business, specializing in the goddess Diana whose temple is "protected" in the city. They basically conduct a kangaroo court in the main theater of the city until the city clerk puts an end to it. He is very concerned they have not followed proper legal protocols and that if Rome gets wind of it, they would have no defense for their actions. He encourages those with a grievance to bring the matter before the courts and have it

settled in a civilized manner. Plus he assures them that they have nothing to worry about; it is indisputable that Diana is the great goddess, the gift of Zeus.

When the riot and madness had ended, Paul warmly and generously acknowledged the tenacity of his disciples and left for Macedonia, where he moved through the region bringing words of encouragement to God's people. Then he headed to Greece where he remained for three months. He left Greece for Macedonia and then left Philippi (in Macedonia) for Troas after the Days of Unleavened Bread. Troas is where Paul preaches late into the night and a young man sitting the window falls out after he dozes off. He dies but is resuscitated by Paul who goes right on teaching until morning.

Paul then strategically makes his way from Troas to Miletus, bypassing Ephesus on his return trip to Jerusalem. From Troas he summons the Church leadership in Ephesus and delivers a sobering and persuasive message as he bids them a final farewell, revealing that he won't see them again in this life. He reviews how his entire life is a witness to his faith and how he held nothing back. He emphasizes how he considers his physical life unimportant, and that his priority is to finish the work he's been assigned, and to be joyful no matter what happens along the way. Paul then gives them leadership advice about being faithful shepherds and leaves them

with a few sobering warnings. Don't draw people unto yourself and don't be in ministry for reasons of personal gain. Depend on God for everything and recognize how I worked to support myself and the others with me, so no one could claim I was in it for the money. I supported the others with me to teach you another important lesson. Take care of those in need! It was an emotional time filled with tears and kisses, mostly because Paul had told them that this was it; they would not see him again.

Acts 19

Paul at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-10)

1. Paul begins his third missionary journey and will spend two years in Ephesus.
 - (a) Apollos was at Corinth and Paul had already made his way from Antioch in Syria, through Galatia and now has come all the way to Ephesus.
 - (b) He asks the disciples in Ephesus if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They had not even heard of such a thing.
 - (c) Paul finds out they only understand the baptism of John.
 - (d) Paul then distinguishes the baptism of repentance from what John predicted, the baptism of Christ Jesus.

- (e) At that point Paul baptizes them in the name of Jesus, he lays hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- (f) They spoke with tongues and prophesied.
- (g) The twelve men who experienced the Holy Spirit went and preached for three months in the synagogue.
- (h) They spent their time explaining the things of Y'shua as Messiah and they emphasized the kingdom of God.
- (i) As usual, some in the synagogue refused the truth and spoke evil of the Way.
- (j) Paul decided to removed the disciples and instead to gather in the school of Tyrannus to teach them.
- (k) This went on for two years and the word spread from Ephesus to all of Asia.

All Sorts of Miracles Glorify Christ (Acts 19:11-20)

- 2. Anointed garments and not so anointed men with anointed outcomes anyway!
 - (a) Paul was so anointed that even his garments carried God's grace. The sick were made well and the demon possessed were freed just by touching materials that once touched Paul.
 - (b) At the same time, there were some traveling Jewish exorcists (seven sons of a Jewish chief priest) who decided to use Jesus name to cast out evil spirits, but they were doing so without actually knowing the Lord themselves.

- (c) Instead they invoked Jesus' name by referring to Him as the One who Paul knows!
- (d) The evil spirit knows who Jesus is and knows who Paul is, but it doesn't know these pseudo-exorcists!
- (e) The possessed man attacked these frauds and beat the pulp out of them!
- (f) They ran out of the house naked and injured.
- (g) This was a great witness to both the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus and they all the more revered the Lord.
- (h) This inspired many confessions and many who practiced witchcraft brought their books and burned them where all could see.
- (i) The combined value of all the books burned was fifty thousand pieces of silver.
- (j) God's word spread powerfully in Ephesus and it prevailed over the darkness of witchcraft.

The Riot at Ephesus (Acts 19:21-41)

3. Inspiration and Commotion

- (a) After the radical transformation of those once embroiled with the occult and the book burning, Paul has an inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

- 1) "From Ephesus, I am going up through Macedonia, down into Achaia (Greece), and then I am heading back to Jerusalem. And from there I will be heading to Rome."
- (b) Paul sends two of his disciples (Timothy and Erastus) into Macedonia; he remained in Asia (Ephesus).
- (c) He was in Ephesus when a severe uproar about the Way (followers of the Way of Y'shua) erupted.
- (d) It was sparked by a man named Demetrius. He was a silversmith whose massive profit center was in crafting paraphernalia for the pagan goddess Diana.
- (e) Demetrius assembled all the local craftsmen, whose businesses thrived off of idolatry, to address the threat to their trade.
- (f) Their prosperity was at risk in Ephesus and across Asia because Paul was persuading men to turn away from paganism.
- (g) Now the people were becoming aware that the idols they held with their hands were not gods after all! Therefore, the idol-business was at risk of collapsing
- (h) Demetrius argued that it may even reach the point when Diana, her temple, and her splendor become loathsome to all of Asia.

- (i) When these craftsmen realized all their profits were going to slip away, they were enraged and shouted, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”
- (j) The whole city went into confusion. They grabbed a few of Paul’s ministry helpers and dragged them into the theater. This location turned the incident into a massive public spectacle.
- (k) Paul wanted to handle the situation, but other disciples prevented him from getting involved. Even his local friends, who were city officials, sent him messages strongly advising against going to the theater.
- (l) Meanwhile, the place was in utter chaos. The mob was screaming all sorts of gibberish; most of them could not even tell you why they were there! They were simply absorbed into the madness.
- (m) Alexander was selected by the Jews to speak on their behalf and to defend their position, but when he indicated he had something to say, because he was a Jew, the people just screamed over him for two solid hours. *“Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”*
- (n) The city clerk finally quieted the mob.
 - 1) “What are you so worried about? Everyone knows that Ephesus is the protector of the temple of the great goddess Diana, the gift of Zeus. This is indisputable, so calm down

and stop acting so irrationally. The men you dragged in here are not temple thieves and they have not actually said a word against your goddess.”

(o) Proper legal action...

1) “If the craftsmen have a legitimate case, let them take these men to court and present it to the proconsuls.

Everything must take place in front of a civilized gathering of men and will be decided accordingly to our laws. Right now our whole city government is at risk. If news of this mob-like incident makes its way to Rome and we are challenged, we will have no defense for our actions.”

(p) That was the final ruling on the matter and mob was sent home!

Acts 19

The Journey Back to Greece (Acts 20:1-6)

4. Charting a Move!

(a) When the riot and madness had ended Paul warmly and generously acknowledged the tenacity of his disciples and left for Macedonia, where he moved through the region bringing words of encouragement to God’s people.

(b) Then he headed to Greece where remained for three months.

- (c) The Jews in Greece planned more trouble for him and he almost abandoned the trip at that moment to return to Syria (likely to Antioch from where this trip began). But instead, he headed north and returned to Macedonia.
- (d) He charted a move from Macedonia back to Asia, and disciples from Macedonia, Asia and Galatia, who would join him, sailed ahead to await his arrival in Troas (in Mysia).
- (e) Paul left Philippi (in Macedonia) after the Days of Unleavened Bread.
- (f) Five days later he met up with the disciples who had gone ahead to Troas, and he ministered there for a week.

Ministering and Miracle in Troas (Acts 20:7-12)

5. Note to self: don't doze off during a sermon!

- (a) As was the custom of every observant Jew, they gathered with family and friends for a meal at the end of the Sabbath, and as the sun was setting the first day of the week began.
- (b) Larger gatherings would take place in the upper room of the home—in this case on the third floor.
- (c) Paul was planning to leave in the morning and they all stayed up late to hear him teach.
- (d) He was still talking at midnight and one young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window opening becoming quite drowsy.

- (e) He literally fell asleep sitting on the edge of the window and accidentally fell from the third floor and died.
- (f) Paul rushed to his side, took him in his arms, and reassured everyone that he would live!
- (g) The young man miraculously revived and they all went back upstairs where they shared a meal as Paul continued to teach until sunrise.

From Troas to Miletus (Acts 20:13-16)

6. Strategic Movement

- (a) Again, Paul's travel companions go ahead of him. They sailed from Troas to Assos, and Paul went by foot with the intention to meet them and hop aboard the ships in Assos.
- (b) From there they sailed to Mitylene and then past Chios until they hit Trogyllium on the mainland coast (in modern-day Turkey) opposite the island of Samos.
- (c) They stayed in Trogyllium overnight and the next day they sailed across to Miletus, a little further south on the coast.
- (d) Paul had decided to avoid Ephesus on his return trip, predicting he would get stuck there.
- (e) He really desired to be in Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost, if at all possible.

The Ephesian Elders are Exhorted (Acts 20:17-38)

7. Urgent Persuasion and Final Good-byes!

- (a) Because Paul had bypassed Ephesus, instead he sends a message to the Ephesian Church leaders to come see him in Miletus.
- (b) This is his urgent message to them:
- 1) From the moment I first arrived in Asia you could observe what I believed by how I lived.
 - 2) I was in complete service to God.
 - 3) I was humble.
 - 4) I was willing to suffer at the hands of my people (the Jews).
 - 5) I held nothing back; I was all in!
 - 6) I shared the truth in both public and private settings.
 - 7) I brought the same message of repentance to both Jews and Greeks.
 - 8) And now I know from the deepest places within me that I have no choice but to head back to Jerusalem, even though I have no clue how I will be received.
 - 9) I do know this, however; the Holy Spirit has shown me that everywhere I go I should be prepared to be persecuted and imprisoned.
 - 10) And do you know what? Knowing this does not dissuade at all!
 - 11) I don't actually believe my personal well-being is at all important, even if it costs me my life.

12) What I do see as invaluable, however, is that I finish the work I've been assigned to do by Christ, and to be joyful along the way.

(c) And so you know, here is the work I was assigned in a nutshell, because after I leave here you won't see me alive again.

- 1) To testify to the gospel of God's grace.
- 2) To teach you all to preach the kingdom of God.
- 3) To leave no man's blood on my conscience because I openly declared the entirety of God's message, both the Gospel of Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom.

(d) So now, this is your assignment and I am warning you to take seriously.

- 1) The Holy Spirit has made you overseers of God's people, who are like sheep.
- 2) Shepherd the flock, the church of God, which was purchased with His blood.

(e) Warning:

- 1) Keeping with the sheep, flock, and shepherd theme, when I am gone, wolves will come in to destroy the flock.
- 2) These men will arise with their own message, their own gospel, so to speak.

- 3) Their entire intention is to create their own disciples, to gather followers unto themselves, and they will say anything necessary to gather people to their feet. (See [Christian Idolatry](#))
 - 4) Be on the lookout. Be reminded of what I passionately taught you every day over the years.
- (f) I leave you with this...
- 1) God is with you.
 - 2) God's grace will empower you.
 - 3) God will hold you up.
 - 4) God has is your inheritance.
 - 5) Also, notice that I never went after the money. That is a big red flag.
 - 6) If you see someone doing that, it is an indication that they are in it for themselves.
 - 7) Also recognize that I worked to support myself and the others with me, so no one could claim I was in it for the money.
 - 8) I chose to do so even though it is perfectly fine for someone to earn a living from the ministry.
 - 9) I just chose this for myself to avoid any complications or accusations.

- (h) I supported the others with me to teach you another important lesson. Take care of those in need!
 - 1) Jesus taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
- (i) When he was done, he prayed with them.
 - 1) It was an emotional time filled with tears and kisses, mostly because Paul had told them that this was it; they would not see him again.
 - 2) After that they brought Paul to the ship to see him off. He was headed for Jerusalem!

THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

A. "We have not heard there is a Holy Spirit."

(1) Paul at Ephesus (**Acts 19:1-10**)

(a) Two Years in Ephesus

- 1. "And it happened, while **Apollos was at Corinth**, that **Paul**, having passed through the upper regions, **came to Ephesus**. And finding some disciples 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.**" And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "**Into John's baptism.**" 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.” When they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.** Now the men were about twelve in all. And he **went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months,** reasoning and persuading **concerning the things of the kingdom of God.** 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.** And this **continued for two years,** so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.” Acts 19:1-10 NKJV

2. Paul begins his third missionary journey.
 - a) Apollos was at *Corinth and Paul had already made his way from Antioch in Syria, through Galatia and now has come all the way to Ephesus.
 - 1) ***Apollos went to Greece to help and refute Jews...** *“And when **he desired to cross to***

Achaia [Greece], the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 18:27-28 NKJV

- b) He asks the disciples in Ephesus if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They had not even heard of such a thing.
- c) Paul finds out they only understand the baptism of John.
- d) Paul then distinguishes the baptism of repentance from what John predicted, the baptism of Christ Jesus.
 - 1) This is strange as Aquila and Priscilla had encountered the same lack of understanding when they met Apollos in Ephesus and they added to his knowledge by teaching him about the Holy Spirit. (Apollos left Ephesus but they stayed behind).
 - 2) *“Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the*

*Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, **though he knew only the baptism of John.** So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. **When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**” Acts*

18:24-26 NKJV

- e) At that point Paul baptizes them in the name of Jesus, he lays hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- f) They spoke with tongues and prophesied.
- g) The twelve men who experienced the Holy Spirit went and preached for three months in the synagogue.
- h) They spent their time explaining the things of Y’shua as Messiah and they *emphasized the kingdom of God.
 - 1) *We will see this emphasis, as well, in Paul’s farewell to the Ephesians in Acts 20:17-38.
- i) As usual, some in the synagogue refused the truth and spoke evil of the Way.

- j) Paul decided to removed the disciples and instead to gather in the school of Tyrannus to teach them.
 - 1) School of Tyrannus: Likely an empty school building that Paul could use in the afternoons to gather his students.
 - 2) Schools in Ephesus (modern-day Turkey) would traditionally hold class in the cool of the morning making them available in the afternoons for other uses.
- k) This went on for two years and the word spread from Ephesus to all of Asia.

(2) All Sorts of Miracles Glorify Christ (**Acts 19:11-20**)

- (a) Anointed garments and not so anointed men with anointed outcomes anyway!
 - 1. “Now God worked **unusual miracles** by the hands of Paul, 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. 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.**” Also there were **seven sons of Sceva**, a Jewish chief priest, who did

so. And the evil spirit answered and said, **“Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”** 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.** 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.** And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 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.** So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.” Acts 19:11-20 NKJV

2. The supernatural shows itself in the natural
 - a) Paul was so anointed that even his garments carried God’s grace. The sick were made well and the demon possessed were freed just by touching materials that once touched Paul.
 - b) At the same time, there were some traveling Jewish exorcists (seven sons of a Jewish chief priest) who decided to use Jesus name to cast out evil spirits,

but they were doing so without actually knowing the Lord themselves.

- c) Instead they invoked Jesus' name by referring to Him as the One who Paul knows!
- d) The evil spirit knows who Jesus is and knows who Paul is, but it doesn't know these pseudo-exorcists!
- e) The possessed man attacked these frauds and beat the pulp out of them!
- f) They ran out of the house naked and injured.
- g) This was a great witness to both the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus and they all the more revered the Lord.
- h) This inspired many confessions and many who practiced witchcraft brought their books and burned them where all could see.
- i) The combined value of all the books burned was fifty thousand pieces of silver.
 - 1) Note: one piece of silver equals a day's wage, so this was an extreme sacrifice and show of contrition!
- j) God's word spread powerfully in Ephesus and it prevailed over the darkness of witchcraft.

(3) The Riot at Ephesus (**Acts 19:21-41**)

(a) Inspiration and Commotion

1. “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.”** So he **sent into Macedonia** two of those who ministered to him, **Timothy and Erastus**, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time. And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: **“Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.** 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.** 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.” Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying,

“Great is Diana of the Ephesians!” 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**. And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him **pleading that he would not venture into the theater**. 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**. 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. 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!” 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? **Therefore, since these things cannot be denied**, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. For you have

brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. 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. But **if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly.** 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." And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly."

Acts 19:21-41 NKJV

2. After the radical transformation of those once embroiled with the occult and the book burning, Paul has an inspiration from the Holy Spirit.
 - a) "From Ephesus, I am going up through Macedonia, down into Achaia (Greece), and then I am heading back to Jerusalem. And from there I will be heading to Rome."
 - b) Paul has no idea what is in store for him.
 - 1) Yes, he will be back in Jerusalem (in Acts 21).
 - 2) Yes, he will wind up in Rome (in Acts 28).
 - 3) No, it will not look like what he hopes for.

- 4) In Jerusalem he will be arrested and he will literally spend the rest of his life going from one spot to the next, defending himself from false accusations.
- 5) Remember, way back before he was encountered by Christ on the Road to Damascus in Acts 9, he presided over the execution of Stephen in Acts 7, all based on false testimony, and he continued to persecute the Church in Acts 8.
- 6) After his coming arrest, Paul will spend the remaining nine years of his life defending himself against false accusations. Paul certainly understood why! *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”* Galatians 6:7 NKJV
- 7) Timeline...
 - a. Paul was here in Ephesus in his third missionary journey in (AD 52-54).
 - b. Paul will arrive back in Jerusalem in (AD 55).
 - c. Paul dies in Rome (Circa AD 64).

- c) Paul sends two of his disciples (Timothy and Erastus) into Macedonia; he remained in Asia (Ephesus).
- d) He was in Ephesus when a severe uproar about the Way (followers of the Way of Y'shua) erupted.
- e) It was sparked by a man named Demetrius. He was a silversmith whose massive profit center was in crafting paraphernalia for the pagan goddess Diana.
- f) Demetrius assembled all the local craftsmen, whose businesses thrived off of idolatry, to address the threat to their trade.
- g) Their prosperity was at risk in Ephesus and across Asia because Paul was persuading men to turn away from paganism.
- h) Now the people were becoming aware that the idols they held with their hands were not gods after all!
- 1) Therefore, the idol-business was at risk of collapsing (*in the same way the fortune-telling business collapsed in Philippi when Paul cast out the demon from girl being used by her owners to sell fortunes in Acts 16:16-24).

2) **“But when her masters **saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.**”* Acts 16:19 NKJV

3) And as you will soon see, the people who wish to protect their own interests here in Ephesus will also attempt to stifle the truth, like was done in Philippi.

i) Demetrius argued that it may even reach the point when Diana, her temple, and her splendor become loathsome to all of Asia.

j) When these craftsmen realized all their profits were going to slip away, they were enraged and shouted, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”

k) The whole city went into confusion.

l) They grabbed a few of Paul’s ministry helpers and dragged them into the theater.

1) This location turned the incident into a massive public spectacle.

2) The Grand Theater in Ephesus, which is still standing today, stood facing down the main thoroughfare of the city.

3) It had a large seating capacity of 25,000 people.

- m) Paul wanted to handle the situation, but other disciples prevented him from getting involved. Even his local friends, who were city officials, sent him messages strongly advising against going to the theater.
- n) Meanwhile, the place was in utter chaos. The mob was screaming all sorts of gibberish; most of them could not even tell you why they were there! They were simply absorbed into the madness.
- o) Alexander was selected by the Jews to speak on their behalf and to defend their position, but when he indicated he had something to say, because he was a Jew, the people just screamed over him for two solid hours. *"Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"*
- p) The city clerk finally quieted the mob.
 - 1) "What are you so worried about? Everyone knows that Ephesus is the protector of the temple of the great goddess Diana, the gift of Zeus. This is indisputable, so calm down and stop acting so irrationally. The men you dragged in here are not temple thieves and they have not actually said a word against your goddess."
- q) Proper legal action...

- 1) “If the craftsmen have a legitimate case, let them take these men to court and present it to the proconsuls. Everything must take place in front of a civilized gathering of men and will be decided accordingly to our laws. Right now our whole city government is at risk. If news of this mob-like incident makes its way to Rome and we are challenged, we will have no defense for our actions.”
- r) That was the final ruling on the matter and mob was sent home!

B. Lessons on Salvation

- (1) Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - (a) The Holy Spirit was identified as the third person of the Trinity by the Church centuries ago. Much debate has been raised over this doctrine. Several denominations who identify as Christians deny the Holy Spirit by calling Him an “**active force**” or a “**mystical power,**” but nothing could be further from proper Biblical understanding of the accolades reserved for the Holy Spirit.
 - (b) The same attributes displayed by God, in the Scriptures, are reserved for the Holy Spirit

1. Scripture is replete with verses identifying the Holy Spirit as God
 - a) But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart ***to lie to the Holy Spirit*** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man ***but to God.***” Acts 5:3-4 ESV
2. Clearly, when Peter addresses Ananias’ lie, regarding the amount of money collected from the sale of his home, equates the ***Holy Spirit with God.***
3. Spirit was involved in creation with God
 - a) The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And ***the Spirit of God*** was hovering over the face of the waters.
Genesis 1:2 ESV
 - 1) Only the Omnipotence of God has the capacity to create ***“ex-nihilo.”***
 - b) Let ***US*** make man in ***OUR*** image Genesis 1:26 ESV
 - 1) The image of God in the creation of man includes that of the Holy Spirit.

4. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent

a) One of God's attributes is His omnipresence!

1) Where shall ***I go from your Spirit?*** Or where shall I flee from your presence? ***If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*** Psalms 139: 7-8 ESV

5. The Holy Spirit is eternal.

a) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through ***the eternal Spirit*** offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Hebrews 9:14 ESV

1) There is only one eternal being and that being is God. The Holy Spirit cannot both be eternal and not be God at the same time.

(c) What is the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit is ***a guide and a helper*** to the believer.

a) For all ***who are led by the Spirit of God*** are sons of God. Romans 8:14 ESV

b) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, ***He will guide you*** into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. John 16:13-14 NKJV

c) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those ***who live according to the Spirit*** set their minds ***on the things of the Spirit***. Romans 8:5 ESV

d) and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but ***in demonstration of the Spirit and of power*** 1 Cor 2:4 ESV

e) And I will ask the Father, and He will give you ***another Helper, to be with you forever***, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17 ESV

(d) When does the Holy Spirit begin His work?

1. The Holy Spirit begins His work in the life of the believer the moment they repent and place their trust for salvation based on the sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross.

a) ***You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone***

who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. Romans 8:9

b) And he said to them, “***Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?***” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Acts 19:2 ESV

c) ***Jesus answered,*** “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water ***and the Spirit,*** he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is ***born of the Spirit is spirit.*** John 3:5-6 ESV

2. What is the job of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?

a) But, as it is written, “***What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him***”—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For ***the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*** 1 Cor 2:9-10 ESV

1) The Holy Spirit is ***the catalyst and the gateway*** in the life of the believer to exercise the capacity of ***receiving and interpreting things directly from the mind of God.***

- a. A believer without the ***anointing of the Holy Spirit*** could still be called today what they were called in Biblical times, a God-fearer.
 - b. These were the people who believed in God but were not Jewish. They had a fear of God but did not keep the feasts or Sabbath.
 - c. In today's terminology, these would be the people who believe there is a "***higher-power***" but do not acknowledge God, nor have they received Christ. They believe this higher-power exists for all sorts of contorted spiritual ideologies, none of which includes a personal "holy" guide to live according to His precepts. Instead, it is a goose bumps and liver shivers, and ethereal guides.
- 2) For ***who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person***, which is in him? So also ***no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God***. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, ***that we might understand the things freely given us by God***. 2 Cor 2:11-12
- ESV

- a. Once the Spirit indwells the new believer,
They will begin to get information to purge
out their old way of thinking and to start
“comprehending the thoughts of God”
 - b. According to this verse, we have been given
the capacity to “understand the things freely
given us by God.
- 3) This will not happen any other way, as we will
read in the verse of this same chapter.
- a. And we impart ***this in words not taught by
human wisdom*** but taught by the Spirit,
***interpreting spiritual truths to those who are
spiritual. The natural person does not accept
the things of the Spirit of God***, for they are
folly to him, and he is not able to understand
them because they are spiritually discerned. 1
Cor 2:13-14 ESV
 - b. Trying to interpret the things of God with
human wisdom is akin to a Professor giving a
university level lecture to a two year old (only
analogy I could muster in the natural)!
 - c. The natural person has their thinking process
attached to what their senses can

comprehend, the things that fit their three pound brains, and nothing else.

- d. *The moment the believer mingles humanistic wisdom with the things of God, **there is a breakdown in communication.*** We cannot hijack the process God has established for the born again believer.
- e. The moment an individual attempts to understand the things of God by human means, that person has turned those topics into folly.

(e) How could a disciple not have received the Holy Spirit, or furthermore, not have even heard of The Holy Spirit?

1. ***Now a Jew named Apollos,*** a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ***He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit,*** he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, ***though he knew only the baptism of John.*** He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when ***Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to***

him the way of God more accurately. Acts

18:24-26 ESV

- a) Within this verse lies the answer to the question.
- b) This is the same answer we can give to people walking around in today's society, who are not "accurately" understanding the things of God.
- c) It all begins with inaccurate or incomplete teachings of God's Scriptures.
- d) In reading Acts 18:24-26 we can see that Apollos was "***fervent in spirit.***" However, his fervency was not one derived from the Spirit of God but his own.
- e) His preaching was incomplete being that it did not include the very charge Yeshua gave His disciples in Matthew 28:19—"make disciples of ***all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit***"
- f) It wasn't until Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and explained ***the way of God more accurately*** that Apollos grabbed onto the totality of what he was supposed to be teaching.
- g) A person can be very zealous in their own spirit to preach in the open. They can be very

charismatic as well in their human capacities. Unfortunately, those hearing their message will be left devoid of the most important part of our Christian experience, ***the indwelling of the Holy Spirit***, which we have already read Scripture establishes as a prerequisite to be born again.

(2) Conclusion

(a) In Romans 8:14-16 we read, For all who are ***led by the Spirit of God are sons of God***. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ***The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God***.

1. This verse should serve all of us as a beacon of light emanating from the brightest lighthouse there has ever been! We should realize that as sons and daughters of Yahweh that we are totally unable to walk in this life without Him being our guide, hence the Apostle Paul writing by the inspiration of the Spirit ***“for all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God”***. This statement contains two benefits. First, (by order of importance) it ***legitimizes the person*** as a child of God, which from this same

Scripture we understand has happened by adoption. Second, it gives the child of God assurance that they have a guide for all things in life, arming the believer with freedom from a spirit of slavery keeping the person in fear.

2. Fear is the opposite of faith and is not a part of a heaven-led vocabulary. The Bible reminds us that whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. Fear in itself is a natural human emotion, and not all fear is sinful. The fear the Bible is referring to is the fear that leads to a lack of trust in God and leads the person to revert back to relying on his / her own strength or humanistic ways.
3. We can surmise that in Acts 19:1-2, there was something easily recognizable in the lives of the “Ephesus Dozen”. The Apostle Paul being filled with the Holy Spirit picked up on it right away and addressed it. Was it fear he sensed? Was it that they still had earthly behaviors they were okay with? Was it that their speech was not governed by the Holy Spirit? The Bible does not specifically tell us so we can take some liberty in trying to understand what took place.

4. If the Apostle Paul were to walk into our congregation today, and if he were to ask you the same question in Acts 19:1-2, ***“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.*** It is almost impossible you would answer “we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit” However, how would you answer the first part of the question ***“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed”.***
5. *You must wrestle with the answer to that question on your own!*

BOUND TO JERUSALEM

2. This mission is coming to an end...

A. The Final Leg of Mission Number Three

(1) The Journey Back to Greece (**Acts 20:1-6**)

(a) Charting a Move!

1. “After the uproar had ceased, **Paul** called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and **departed to go to Macedonia.** Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he **came to Greece and stayed three months.** And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail

to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. These men, going ahead, **waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas,** where we stayed seven days.”

Acts 20:1-6 NKJV

2. The Riot was Over...

- a) When the riot and madness had ended Paul warmly and generously acknowledged the tenacity of his disciples and left for Macedonia, where he moved through the region bringing words of encouragement to God’s people.
- b) Then he headed to Greece where remained for three months.
- c) The Jews in Greece planned more trouble for him and he almost abandoned the trip at that moment to return to Syria (likely to Antioch from where this trip began). But instead, he headed north and returned to Macedonia.

- d) He charted a move from Macedonia back to Asia, and disciples from Macedonia, Asia and Galatia, who would join him, sailed ahead to await his arrival in Troas (in Mysia).
- e) Paul left Philippi (in Macedonia) after the Days of Unleavened Bread.
- f) Five days later he met up with the disciples who had gone ahead to Troas, and he ministered there for a week.

(2) Ministering and Miracle in Troas (**Acts 20:7-12**)

(a) Note to self: don't doze off during a sermon!

1. "Now **on the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, **spoke to them and continued his message until midnight**. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, **he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead**. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, **"Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."** Now when he had come up, had

broken bread and eaten, and **talked a long while, even till daybreak**, he departed. And **they brought the young man in alive**, and they were not a little comforted.” Acts 20:7-12 NKJV

2. The First Day of the Week?

- a) As was the custom of every observant Jew, they gathered with family and friends for a meal at the end of the Sabbath, and as the sun was setting the first day of the week began.
- b) Larger gatherings would take place in the upper room of the home—in this case on the third floor.
- c) Paul was planning to leave in the morning and they all stayed up late to hear him teach.
- d) He was still talking at midnight and one young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window opening becoming quite drowsy.
- e) He literally fell asleep sitting on the edge of the window and accidentally fell from the third floor and died.
- f) Paul rushed to his side, took him in his arms, and reassured everyone that he would live!
- g) The man miraculously revived and they shared a meal as Paul continued to teach until sunrise.

(3) From Troas to Miletus (**Acts 20:13-16**)

(a) Strategic Movement

1. “Then we went ahead to the ship and **sailed to Assos**, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and **came to Mitylene**. We sailed from there, and the next day came **opposite Chios**. The following day we arrived **at Samos** and stayed at Trogyllium. **The next day we came to Miletus**. For **Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.**” Acts 20:13-16 NKJV

2. All of Paul’s moments are very strategic...

a) Again, Paul’s travel companions go ahead of him.

They sailed from Troas to Assos, and Paul went by foot with the intention to meet them and hop aboard the ships in Assos.

b) From there they sailed to Mitylene and then past Chios until they hit Trogyllium on the mainland coast (in modern-day Turkey) opposite the island of Samos.

- c) They stayed in Trogyllium overnight and the next day they sailed across to Miletus, a little further south on the coast.
- d) Paul had decided to avoid Ephesus on his return trip, predicting he would get stuck there.
- e) He really desired to be in Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost, if at all possible.
 - 1) Remember: Paul remained in Philippi for the Days of Unleavened Bread.
 - 2) Unleavened bread lasts seven days beginning at Passover.
 - 3) The feast of First Fruits is the first day following the first weekly Sabbath that follows Passover, and Pentecost is fifty days after Firstfruits.
 - 4) Paul wants to get to Jerusalem for Pentecost because Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles are the three pilgrimage feasts, and if at all humanly possible, faithful men should be in Jerusalem to celebrate (Deuteronomy 16:16).

(4) The Ephesian Elders are Exhorted (**Acts 20:17-38**)

(a) Urgent Persuasion and Final Good-byes!

1. **“From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.** And when they had come to

him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,** so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom **I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.**

Therefore I testify to you this day that **I am innocent** of the blood of all men. For **I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.** Therefore **take heed** to yourselves and to all the flock, among

which the Holy Spirit has **made you overseers**, to **shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood**. For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock**. Also from among yourselves **men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves**. Therefore watch, and remember that **for three years** I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel**. Yes, **you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities**, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, **that you must support the weak**. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**’ ” And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, **sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face**

no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.”

Acts 20:17-38 NKJV

2. Because Paul had bypassed Ephesus, instead he sends a message to the Ephesian Church leaders to come see him in Miletus.

a) This is his urgent message to them:

- 1) From the moment I first arrived in Asia you could observe what I believed by how I lived.
- 2) I was in complete service to God.
- 3) I was humble.
- 4) I was willing to suffer at the hands of my people (the Jews).
- 5) I held nothing back; I was all in!
- 6) I shared the truth in both public and private settings.
- 7) I brought the same message of repentance to both Jews and Greeks.
- 8) And now I know from the deepest places within me that I have no choice but to head back to Jerusalem, even though I have no clue how I will be received.

- 9) I do know this, however; the Holy Spirit has shown me that everywhere I go I should be prepared to be persecuted and imprisoned.
- 10) And do you know what? Knowing this does not dissuade at all!
- 11) I don't actually believe my personal well-being is at all important, even if it costs me my life.
- 12) Later I will write a letter to the Galatians that says this: *"I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* Galatians 2:20 NKJV
- 13) What I do see as invaluable, however, is that I finish the work I've been assigned to do by Christ, and to be joyful along the way.
- 14) Later I will write a letter to Timothy that says this: *"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and **the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous*

Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” II Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV

- b) And so you know, here is the work I was assigned in a nutshell, because after I leave here you won't see me alive again.
 - 1) To testify to the gospel of God's grace.
 - 2) To teach you all to preach the kingdom of God.
 - 3) To leave no man's blood on my conscience because I openly declared the entirety of God's message, both the Gospel of Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- c) So now, this is your assignment and I am warning you to take seriously.
 - 1) The Holy Spirit has made you overseers of God's people, who are like sheep.
 - 2) Shepherd the flock, the church of God, which was purchased with His blood.
- d) Warning:
 - 1) Keeping with the sheep, flock, and shepherd theme, when I am gone, wolves will come in to destroy the flock.

- 2) These men will arise with their own message, their own gospel, so to speak.
 - 3) Their entire intention is to create their own disciples, to gather followers unto themselves, and they will say anything necessary to gather people to their feet. (See [Christian Idolatry](#))
 - 4) Be on the lookout. Be reminded of what I passionately taught you every day over the years.
 - 5) Later I will write a letter to Timothy that says this: ***“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For **the time will come** when they will not endure sound doctrine, **but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you **be watchful** in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **fulfill your ministry.**”***** II Timothy 4:2-5 NKJV
- e) I leave you with this...
- 1) God is with you.

- 2) God's grace will empower you.
- 3) God will hold you up.
- 4) God has is your inheritance.
- 5) Also, notice that I never went after the money.
That is a big red flag.
- 6) If you see someone doing that, it is an indication that they are in it for themselves.
- 7) Also recognize that I worked to support myself and the others with me, so no one could claim I was in it for the money.
- 8) I chose to do so even though it is perfectly fine for someone to earn a living from the ministry.
- 9) I just chose this for myself to avoid any complications or accusations.
- 10) Later I will write a letter to the Corinthians that says this: *"Even so the Lord has commanded that **those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me;** for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void."* I Corinthians 9:14-15 NKJV

- f) I supported those with me to teach you another important lesson. Take care of those in need!
 - 1) Jesus taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
 - 2) Those were not His exact words, but it is likely that Paul heard about the concept from someone who heard it from Christ as, of course, Paul was not there!
 - 3) *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.**”* Matthew 10:8 NKJV
- g) When he was done, he prayed with them.
 - 1) It was an emotional time filled with tears and kisses, mostly because Paul had told them that this was it; they would not see him again.
 - 2) After that they brought Paul to the ship to see him off. He was headed for Jerusalem!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Only one essay question:

- A. Can someone be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? Explain your answer in detail and use Scripture references to support your answer.