

INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Tenacious Discipleship

Acts 19:8-20

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Focal Passages

➤ Scripture Reading Volunteers:

- ✓ Acts 19:8-10
- ✓ Acts 19:11-12
- ✓ Acts 19:13-17
- ✓ Acts 19:18-20

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Acts 1:8

*“But you will receive **POWER** when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

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THE 2ND & 3RD MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

50-52, 53-57 AD

EPHESUS



- ❖ Paul visited Ephesus on his 2nd missionary journey and promised to return, if God willed it (18:21).
- ❖ On his way back, across the interior regions, he encountered several disciples who had been taught by Apollos.
- ❖ They had an incomplete view of the gospel, so Paul shared the whole gospel with them; they believed, were baptized, and received the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ We pick up the story today with Paul back in Ephesus.

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Jewish Opposition

Acts 19:8-10

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

How long did Paul preach in the synagogue in Ephesus?

What happened?

How did Paul respond?

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Paul's Tenacity

Acts 19:8-10

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, reasoning with them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions **every day** in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on **for two years** so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

Paul was tenacious and undeterred by the opposition!

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GOD'S CONFIRMATION

Acts 19:8-10

God honored Paul's tenacity!

What happens often, when someone garners this much attention?

¹¹God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands, ¹²so that even facecloths or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.

- The miracles God performed through Paul provided **incontrovertible evidence** that Paul was from God and spoke for God.
- Steeped in superstition, the Ephesians failed to understand that **Paul was merely the human channel for God's power.**
- The idea that healing power could be magically transmitted through objects was prevalent in the ancient world.

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Counterfeit Competition

Acts 19:13-17

¹³Now some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists also attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!" ¹⁴Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this. ¹⁵The evil spirit answered them, "I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you?" ¹⁶Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them, so that they ran out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷When this became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, they became afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high esteem.

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- The itinerant Jewish exorcists decided to add the name of Jesus to their repertoire of incantations.
- But they had neither the right to use the name nor the power to command demons.

What was their objective?

How did it work out for them?

What was the end result?

UNEXPECTED OUTCOME

The attempt to provide competition completely backfired and only brought greater conviction among the Ephesians of the power of Jesus' name and the truth of Paul's preaching.

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END RESULT

Acts 19:18-20

Economic Impact

50,000 days' wages for
an average laborer.
That's 160 years!

Magicians were not
alone; others were
impacted too.

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¹⁸And **many who had become believers** came confessing and disclosing their practices, ¹⁹while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰In this way **the word of the Lord spread and prevailed.**

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP**TENACIOUS DISCIPLESHIP**

- ➔ Paul boldly shared the Good News **despite relentless opposition**, and his tenacity is a model for all believers.
- ➔ All the satanic forces of the occult and magic arrayed against Paul, but they **could not overpower the Word of God.**
- ➔ The bold preaching of the Gospel, the confirming miracles, the defeat of the exorcists, the resultant awe for the name of Jesus, and the public repudiation of the magical arts demonstrated **the invincible might of God's Word.**

1 John 4:4

*"You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because **the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.**"*

Acts 1:8

*"But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses..."*

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP



*Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For **the Lord your God is the one who will go with you; he will not leave you or abandon you.***

Deuteronomy 31:6

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand... For I am the Lord your God, who holds your right hand, who says to you, "Do not fear, I will help you.

Isaiah 41:10,13

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

Do not fear, for *I am* with you; *do not be afraid*, for *I am* your God. *I will strengthen* you; *I will help* you; *I will hold* on to you with my righteous right hand...
For *I am* the Lord your God, who holds your right hand, who says to you, "*Do not fear*, *I will help* you.

Isaiah 41:10,13



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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

Be Tenacious!

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Persuasive Discipleship
Acts 19:23-41

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