

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# How the Gospel Changes Everything

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 19:11–20**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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## OVERVIEW

This passage tells a story—a true story, of events during Paul’s ministry in Ephesus during his third missionary journey. The story involves miracles and a group of men’s attempt to perform miracles on demand for their own gain. But, ultimately, the story is about power—God’s power.

**When Jesus’ word overpowers our sin, He is magnified.**

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## CORROBORATING TEXTS

Colossians 2:13-15; Luke 1:1-4; 1 John 4:4; Ephesians 6:1; Romans 6

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has your understanding of miracles changed as you have grown and studied scripture? Recall the definition given in the sermon; “...an event of God’s providence, in which the outcome goes beyond what the natural properties of the created things involved could have produced.” (John Collins).
2. Should we expect the kind of miracles we see in Acts, today? And if we do expect them, what kind should we expect to see?
3. The sermon touched on three primary points; the source, the significance and the destiny or purpose of this power.
  - a. **The Source:** The story starts with a simple statement to set the context.  
Who was doing miracles, and why is it important to distinguish the source? Is the spirit world real? How do we sometimes misunderstand or misrepresent the struggle between powers of good and evil? The sons of Sceva seemed to be calling on the true source of power – what was wrong with what they were doing?
  - b. **The Significance:** There are several different displays of power in this story.  
What was the significance of each? What was the most significant and why? People saw that the name and word of Jesus should not be trifled with. What was their response? When have you taken the name and word of Jesus too lightly?
  - c. **The Destiny:** in Luke 1:1-4, Luke describes his purpose in writing this history  
How does this story give us confidence as Jesus’ disciples? Read 1 John 4:4; Ephesians 6:10-12; Romans 6:10-20 (note that in Ephesians, Paul is writing to some of these same people in this story)