



Decade of Availability

Special Miracles

The power of God and...

The power of Ephesus!

Which power is your power?

Introduction: Paul's ministry in Ephesus is characterized by the power of the Holy Spirit. After spending a year preaching the Kingdom of God... "All they that dwelt in Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks." (Acts 19:10b)

Besides preaching—signs and wonders follow Paul.

A. The POWER of God vv. 11-12

1. Special miracles: v. 11 These 'extraordinary' miracles parallel the woman touching the hem of Jesus garment (Mar 5:27) and Peter's shadow (Acts 5:15).

2. Point of contact: v. 12 As in James 5:13 where oil is an agent of faith—so here the cloth from Paul's clothing or tent scraps. These 'charismatic' manifestations may have been prompted as a way to minister to friends and family who could not come to Paul.

3. Overcoming the world: The power of God manifest in Paul's miracles and teaching ultimately led to the Ephesians' overcoming their magic and superstition.

B. The POWER of the World vv. 13-17

1. Ephesus: Was a center of magic power, political power and religious power. There were many 'Jewish magic workers' who attempted 'incantations' to do their work. When they see and hear Paul using the NAME OF JESUS they thought they had found the secret formula.

2. Imitation fails: vv. 15-16 "Magic attempts to gain the power without paying the price of humble submission to the God whose power it is." C.S. Lewis

3. Magic today: Fascination for the 'dark,' magic, witchcraft and New Age spiritism is stronger than ever. Satan is the force that drives the darkness.

C. The POWER of the Word vv. 18-20

1. Letting go: vv. 18-19 As the Power of God was demonstrated—and Satan exposed—the people repented and forsook their magic arts.

2. The working of His power: v. 20 The WORD of God 'prevailed' and grew 'mightily' (Gk. Kratos 'dominion'). The fullness of the Trinity is in this power. ***It's a power that is in us!***

*"And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall they cast out devils;
they shall speak with new tongues..." Mk. 16:17*

See: Eph 1:19; 3:20; 6:10 (In sidebar)

*"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you,
than he that is in the world." John 1:1-2*

Acts 19:11-20 (KJV)

11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

The Working of His Power

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Will the WORD of God 'prevail' in your life? Will you let His power work in you today?