

Acts # 81

“There is Wonder-working Power in the Blood and the Name” *Acts 19:11-17*

And we must remember, whenever God performs miracles, it's always as secondary demonstration because all the power is in the Gospel, the power is in the Word; John 6:63 “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.”

God operated on a secondary level in the first years of the Church because the Canon of Scripture was not completed and the Kingdom was still being offered.

*The lower level was the use of miracles, the gift of tongues and other extra supernatural phenomena; God now works today on a higher level of revelation, His Word.*

The gift of healing always had the same purpose.

Jesus did not heal everyone and He did not heal simply to remove suffering.

*The purpose of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ was to focus attention on God's commitment to Israel through His relentless offer of the Kingdom and also to gain focus for His message which is important; it's the Gospel that provides eternal life, not healing.*

This was obviously a satanic attack that turned out unsuccessful; Satan meant it for evil but God meant it for good.

As a result, there was a great change of attitude as far as these believers were concerned.

The key is not resisting the devil, it is submitting to God because when we submit to obey God, we are resisting the devil and then the bully becomes the coward and flees the scene.

Those who try to resist the devil without submitting to God first is always in for big trouble.

*And those that desire deliverance ministries that hunt down demons to cast them out of people are at great risk to end up like the Jewish exorcists or worse because there are no Bible passages which command us to go around chasing demons.*

Neither Jesus nor any of His apostles went out hunting demons or demon-possessed people.

Demon influence is the philosophy of Satan delivered to mankind through his world system to get man to think like Satan.

To the extent that anyone thinks in terms of human viewpoint which is nothing more than satanic viewpoint, he thinks that which is opposite from the Word of God and that's thinking based on demon influence.

*Note the great contrast between the power of God working through Paul and the failure of those who perform religious rituals like these Jewish exorcists.*

What transformed Ephesus, Thessalonica, Corinth, Rome and Western Europe was when people heard the Gospel and believed it, it changed their behavior and that's what's we have going on in Acts 19.

If you want to see the power of God working through you, start by becoming humble, learning to obey Him by trusting Him to accomplish what He wants to accomplish through you.

What's the point here today? Luke's emphasis and God's emphasis is that only the Gospel changes people, cultures and their ultimate financial prosperity.

*When people reject the Gospel, the same thing happens; the entire culture is destroyed, its economics, its*

*families and its individual lives.*

**The only hope we have is a return to Bible teaching, to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and without that, there is no hope.**