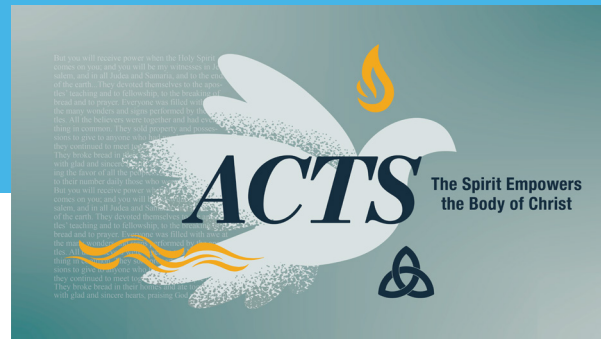


# Discussion Questions

May 11, 2025

## Acts 19:13-40 - The Power of Authentic Faith



### 1. Read Acts 19:13-16

What does this encounter tell us about the reality of Spiritual Warfare?

The evil spirit's response was, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" What does this tell us about the importance of genuine relationship versus mere association with Jesus or cultural Christianity today?

### 2. Read Acts 19:17-19,

They burned millions of dollars of magic books and confessed their sinful practices. Why do you think was happening in their hearts to warrant such a response?

Why is it significant that these were already believers? What does this teach us about the ongoing nature of repentance and sanctification?

### 3. The Ephesians responded with "fear" which includes awe and reverence, that led to repentance. How does a right understanding of God's holiness and power motivate us to deal seriously with sin in our lives?

### 4. The sermon emphasized that the Ephesians acted out of Holy Spirit conviction, not external compulsion or legalism. What are the potential dangers of responding out of compulsion, condemnation or pressure with others and how does that differ from responding to the conviction of the Holy Spirit?

### 5. The sermon concluded with the image of the silting harbor of Ephesus and the challenge to "dredge out the silt" of the sin that callouses our heart. If appropriate, share an example of where the Spirit has convicted you of sin and drawn you back towards his water of life.

### 6. Take a minute in silence to ask the Holy Spirit to highlight any "silt" in your life that could be robbing you of the life giving freedom that Jesus intends for us.

**Acts 19:13-16 (NLT)**

A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

**Matthew 7:22-23 (NLT)**

On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

**Ephesians 6:12 (CSB)**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

**Acts 19:17-19 (CSB)**

When 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. And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, while 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.

**Acts 19:20**

So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

**Acts 19:25-29 (NLT)**

Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all. And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! Of course, I'm not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!" At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Soon the whole city was filled with confusion.



### **Acts 19:32-34 (NLT)**

*Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"*

### **What made the church so influential in Ephesus?**

They were devoted to studying God's Word together

The Holy Spirit was doing miraculous signs and wonder

They were Serious about dealing with sin even at great personal cost

The Church responded to the Conviction of the Holy Spirit

