

Acts Part 20 A Spirit-empowered Life

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 19:2 NASB95] 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they [said] to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

- Too often we are so carnally minded that we are no heavenly good. (Opposite of too heavenly minded we are not earthly good.)
- The story in the Acts is that of a church who is focused upon the Spirit.

What does a Spirit-empowered life look like in Acts 19?

There are four characteristics God wants us to have to develop a Spirit-empowered life.

I. There is a focus on Spirit-baptism.

- [Act 19:1-7 NASB95] 1 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they [said] to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they [began] speaking with tongues and prophesying. 7 There were in all about twelve men.
- Subsequence.
- Importance.
- A Spirit-filled life will have a genuine focus on Spirit-baptism.

II. There is a demonstration of the power of God over sickness and spirits.

- [Act 19:11-12 NASB95] 11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.
- God did it.
- Paul was used in it.
- Transfer of anointing.

III. There is an acknowledgement of the spirit realm.

- [Act 19:13-20 NASB95] 13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. 18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and [began] burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.
- Evil spirits are around us.
- Spiritual authority is based upon the level of surrender. Dominion=submission.

IV. There is sense of living a life purposed in the Spirit.

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- a. [Act 19:21 NASB95] 21 Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."
 - b. Live not self-purposed.
 - c. Live Spirit-purposed.
- **God called us to live a Spirit-empowered life that will involve a focus on Spirit-baptism, combating sickness/spirits, dealing with the spiritual realm, and living a life based on a purpose of the Spirit.**