

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

You Are The Awesome God, Joy, Falling In Love With Jesus, Draw Me Close, O Happy Day

WELCOME

Have you experienced God's power at work in your life lately? Or has your Christian walk been powerless or boring these days?

WORD

ACTS 19:1-10

*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. ⁸ And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily * in the school of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.*

Continue to read the rest of **Acts 19**.

There seems to be a common story in the lives of casual "Sunday Christians" – they live lives of constant defeat, unable to taste and see victory, and is always bugged down by various struggles which they are not able to overcome. If you are like this, then you have not truly experienced the power of the LORD.

As followers of Christ, we must be able to live out the truth that we share to others. **The only way we could do it is if we are EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit.** This is the power that **Acts 1:8** talks about, and the power that propels the ministries that began from Jerusalem (**Acts 1**) and now in **Acts 19** has reached other nations.

When you are empowered by God's Spirit, you have power to do these three things:

1. POWER TO LIVE LIKE CHRIST

Ephesus was an amazing city, the capital of the Roman empire in that area. But it was rich in witchcraft, and superstitious beliefs, the center of worship for the goddess Artemis. Paul was able to find "disciples" here, and he asked them if they have already received the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:2**). You see, if they really understood Jesus, they were supposed to have the Holy Spirit. But these people are like most Christians today who go to church and love the Lord, but they live as if there's no greater power that is in control of their lives.

Now these were the disciples of John the Baptist, and Paul found had an opening for a discussion of the of the Gospel. They understood the need to repent of their sins, but the full picture of repentance is the turning away from sin and turning towards Jesus. This is exactly what it means to "**live like Christ**" (**Philippians 1:21**) – our lives must be transformed to be like Jesus.

Romans 8:8-9 tells us that we are either living in the flesh or in the Spirit. Do you have God's Spirit in your heart? If you cannot answer yes, don't rest until you find out why. You cannot live the Christian life on your own; you need God's Spirit to transform you in order to give you power.

2. POWER TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

In **Acts 19:8-10**, we see Paul and his passion for the TRUTH. The Christian life is not just experiential, you also need God's Truth.

How do you develop a hard heart? It is when you allow compromises in your life and not act upon the truth that you hear from God's word. You eventually become calloused! To combat this, we must choose to be empowered by God to continually depend on His Word for our "renewed" way of living.

When God empowers you with His Spirit, you are able to have a continuous thirst for God's Word – not just for knowledge, but for practice. **1 Peter 2** reminds us to "long

WORD (cont'd)

for the pure milk” of the Word. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** shows us that it is possible to be veiled from seeing the truth. This explains why the Bible seems dry for those who read it but cannot appreciate it or learn from it. The Holy Spirit will be the one to remind you of God’s Truth and enable you to understand what you read from it (**John 14:26**). God’s Word coupled with God’s Spirit leads to **REAL TRANSFORMATION**.

3. POWER TO OVERCOME EVIL

This continuous transformative work that Paul’s ministry had in Ephesus led to some Jews like the sons of Sceva to oppose Paul’s ministry (**Acts 19:13-15**).

This was an act of the enemy who would like to stop the spread of the true Gospel. Many times, we experience the same opposition and evil influences that derail our walk with the Lord. Remember that our enemies in the Christian life involves the world (**Romans 12:2**), the flesh (**Galatians 5:16-17**), and Satan (**Ephesians 6:12**).

Paul was able to overcome evil and the work continued to flourish, and the effect was that many were compelled and convicted of sin, they confessed and eventually surrendered their lives to God. This is telling us simply that we must surrender anything to God that stands in the way of us fully experiencing the power of God’s Spirit in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.** How confident are you right now that you are filled (directed and empowered) by the Holy Spirit? Explain your answer briefly.
- 2. Setting It Right.** What truth from God’s word, the Bible do you need to live out or obey right away? This may be something that you already got convicted of but have not obeyed. Is there a sin you need to confess and repent from?
- 3. Living It Out.** In what area of your life do need the Holy Spirit’s help right now? Is it to live like Christ, to understand God’s word, or to overcome evil? Pray for one another on this regard.

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

As you live a Spirit-filled life this week, seek His guidance on who you can pray for, care for and share the gospel to. Remember that success in sharing the gospel is simply to share JESUS in power of the HOLY SPIRIT, and leaving the results to GOD.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends