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THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Great Revival in Ephesus (Acts 19)

In Acts 19 we read about a great spiritual revival that shook the city of Ephesus. But before we consider the chapter, let's answer the question: what is a revival? Here are three definitions:

- "Revival is an invasion from heaven that brings a conscious awareness of God." – Stephen Olford
- "Revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness, making God's love triumph in the heart." – Andrew Murray.
- "Revival is the visitation of God which brings to life Christians who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God's near presence and holiness. Thence springs a vivid sense of sin and a profound exercise of heart in repentance, praise, and love, with an evangelistic outflow." – J.I. Packer

ACTS 19:1 "And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus..."

- Describe the city of Ephesus:
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ACTS 19:1b-7 "And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

- What two questions did Paul ask the Ephesian disciples?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
- What is the Evidence that a Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit?
 1. _____ (v6)
 2. _____ (Eph. 5:18-21)

BIBLE WORD STUDY:

Compare the words “Grace” and “Gifts” in the Bible.

- THE GRACE OF GOD (Charis) _____
- SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Charisma) _____

ACTS 19:8-9 *And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. 9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.*

- What are some things we can learn about *the school of Tyrannus*, and Paul’s ministry there?

ACTS 19:10 *And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. 11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.*

- What were the handkerchiefs Paul used? _____
- Describe Paul’s Daily Routine:

- LIFE LESSON: DON’T BE AFRAID TO SWEAT FOR JESUS!

ACTS 19:13 *Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.*

- Who were these “itinerant Jewish exorcists”? _____

ACTS 19:17 *This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.*

- Think of some ways that you can “magnify” the name of Christ in your own life and in your community.

ACTS 19:18-20 *And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.*

- What was the value of the books that were burned? _____
- Is there any sin or area of compromise in your life that you need to bring before God?
- What do you understand by the word “confession”? Do Christians need to confess sin? (See 1John 1:8-9). _____

REFLECTING ON ACTS 19

- What specifically stands out to you in this chapter?
- Do you now have a better understanding of what is revival? Using your own words, define the term ‘revival’.
- Describe the state of your spiritual life. Are you in need of personal revival? What steps of faith do you intend to take in this regard?



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