

**Acts**  
**“Jesus” The Sequel**  
**III.) Chp. 13-28 “Witnesses to the end of the earth”**

*Chp. 18:22-28 The royal route to Rome (3<sup>rd</sup> trip)*

**19:1-20**

**“Getting in shape for the New Year (part b)”**

**I.) Intro.**

**II.) Vs. 1-7 Eating healthy**

**III.) Vs. 8-10 Class room time**

**IV.) Vs. 11-20 Healthy in an unhealthy world**

**I.) Intro.**

Taking up the application of the passage of getting into great spiritual health in the New Year we can see that it will require:

- Vs. 18b-23 **MOTIVATION**: We are going to have to make sure that we have the right motivation if we are going to succeed. The person of Jesus is that motivation! That would be the Cross!
- Vs. 24-28 **METHOD**: Next we are going to have to make sure that we have the right method for change. The person and work of Jesus is the only method for a changed heart, life and power! That would be the resurrection!
- Vs. 19:1-7 **MOTOR**: Today we shall see that we are going to need a new engine, new power for this to take place. That would be the baptism of the Holy Spirit!

What I like about this passage is how the stories define just what it looks like to be under new power of the Holy Spirit.

#### IV.) Vs. 19:1-7 Eating healthy

Vs. 1-7 Luke tells us that after Apollos has gone to Corinth, Paul made his way to Ephesus. There are some different opinions about whether these twelve disciples were Christian or not. The difference of opinion centers on the little word in verse 2 rendered “*when*” in the N.K.J. or “*since*” in the K.J. Paul’s question to these disciple’s is either, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit *when* (or *since*) you believed?” The literal translation is, “*Believing, did you receive the Holy Spirit?*” If the word is “*when*” then it would mean that Paul questions whether or not they had become believers. If the word is “*since*” it would mean Paul question is whether or not they had the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit. Arguments can be made for either position based upon the context of the passage. So it will all boil down to your personal opinion as to whether or not you believe in the gifts of the Spirit and the possibility of the third work of the Holy Spirit in the life of man. For instance, John McArthur (*who does not believe in the gifts*) says concerning this word that it has to be “*when*” because everyone knows that and I quote, the “*experiences and phenomena in Acts are not normative for today*.” In other words it can’t be “*since*” because he does not believe that the gifts of the Spirit described in the book of Acts are for today! That’s called a *presupposition*! So what do we know?

- Paul met up with 12 folks that he called disciples or followers
- Something about them made him question the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives
- They were most likely associated with Apollos

The question is what made Paul question them? I think it was that he noticed a lack of power in their lives. It seems to me based on Paul’s question that he is asking them if they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. And their response is, “*Man Apollos never told us*

*about the Holy Spirit.” So Paul goes on to find out exactly what they did know. And they say, “We know that we needed a changed heart which would lead to a changed life, and to live that changed life we needed something more, **some new power.**” I think Paul spoke to them about Jesus’ words in Acts 1:4-5 where Jesus says: “to wait for the Promise of the Father, which, He said, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Further more Jesus said in Acts 1:8 “you shall receive power when the **Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **These 12 were trying to do witnessing instead of be witnesses,** that’s why Paul calls them followers. It must be pointed out that this was a rather small group of believers in Ephesus that did not have a complete understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit and again they were open to the change.*

### **III.) Vs. 8-10 Class room time**

To set up this section of scripture it is necessary to go ahead in this chapter and look at what is said of the ministry of Paul in Ephesus. To start with the time line goes like this:

- Vs. 8 Three months in the synagogue, which he had stopped by on his way to complete his vow, 18:19-21.
- Vs. 10 Two years in the rented school of Tyrannus.
- Vs. 22 Some time more after he had sent Timothy and Erastus to Corinth.

Paul remained in Ephesus for about three years and during those three years we are told:

- Vs. 10 “All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.” That would be all the Churches listed in Revelation

1:11 (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.)

- Vs. 18 *“Many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.”*
- Vs. 20 *“The word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”*
- Vs. 26-27 Demetrius the silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, made a complaint before the chamber of commerce and said; *“Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”*

**We can see illustrated in Paul’s ministry for those three years just what it looks like to be powered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses of Jesus’ life.**

Vs. 8-10 In these three verses Luke crams 2 ½ years of ministry in. Paul started out his ministry where he had left it off in 18:19, the synagogue. There he remains three months longer than any of the other towns he visited. He used the usual format and the result was that some were *“convinced by way of argument”* about the *“Kingdom of God”*. We get a further clue as to what Paul preached concerning the *“Kingdom of God”* in verse 9 where we are told the Jews of the synagogue *“spoke evil of the Way”*. Paul went into that synagogue for three months and spoke about the **“Way”** into the kingdom of God. He stayed there until they began to reject his message publicly, then Paul moves to the

school of Tyrannus. Now in chapter 20:33-34 Paul declares to the elders in Ephesus that he “*coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel... that his hands provided for his necessities and for those that were with him*”. The typical workday was that folk’s would work then take a siesta during the hot part of the day from 11:00 am to 4:00pm and then go back to work after 4:00 to around 9. So Paul worked making tents thus his day looked like this:

7:00am – 11:00am work

11:00am – 4:00pm teach

4:00pm – 9:00pm work

9:00pm – when ever teach from house to house (Acts 20:20)

We do not know anything about this school of Tyrannus but it is believed that he was a philosopher who ran a school in the mornings. His name is where we get our word “tyrant” from. What better place to teach about the freedom we have in Christ then at a school that taught the philosophy of the world, “tyranny”.

If you add up the amount of time Paul taught in the rented school it adds up 3,120 hours of teaching. The outcome of all those hours of teaching is that an area larger than our state heard the Word of the Lord. In fact Luke says that the Word of God crossed cultural boundaries in that both Jews and Greeks were reached. Folks, if you want to be spiritually healthy you are going to have to be consistent! Spiritual growth is a process that requires a consistent daily retinue. People will often say that they “tried” the Bible and prayer but it didn’t work but if you are committed to change then you don’t stop!

#### IV.) Vs. 11-20 Healthy in an unhealthy world

To get healthy spiritually we need to have:

- The right **motivation**, to the Person of Jesus not a program.
- The right **method**, that is to the finished work of Jesus.
- The right **motor** or power, which is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- The right **manner**, which is consistency in all of the above.

Luke now records for three specific instances which help show what life controlled by the Holy Spirit will look like.

Vs. 11-12 First Luke tells us of this incident that he puts into the category of “*unusual miracles*”, (Literally “*miracles not of the ordinary kind*”) a “**natural supernatural**” event.

I like the fact that God works out side the box but it sure would make it a lot easier if He just did things that we could explain to people!

The word “*handkerchief*” is sweatband and the word “*apron*” is that of which a construction worker would use to put his tools in. So you can see what was happening, Paul would work hard till 11:00am and then take off his sweatband from around his forehead untie his tool belt so that he could teach the word. We are not told how it happened but someone picked them up and brought them to a person that was sick and they were healed. I wonder if Paul got tired of having to buy new ones. Does this give credence to those T.V. evangelists who sell a piece of prayer cloth?

- a. First remember that these are “unusual” miracles. Thus we should not expect them to be the normative.
- b. Second, according to verse 19 Ephesus was a very superstitious place. So God worked through their superstitions to minister the truth about Jesus.

- c. Lastly, in verse 19 God began to deal with their superstitions soon after becoming believers.

Folks, the virtue of these things are not to be seen in the material they were made of or the sweat that soaked them. No, **they were healed as they lay hold of the Jesus Paul preached and proclaimed!**

I think far too much is made out of the use of the sweatband and tool belt as instruments of healing and not enough is made out of what there intended use was by Paul. **Paul wore those two items because he was a servant!** He served for two reasons in Ephesus:

1. He was **humble** as verse 19 says, “*serving the Lord in all humility*”.
2. He **loved** them and did not wish to be a burden on them.

**We can tell that the Spirit of God controls a life if it is a life of self-sacrifice**

**dominated by humility and love!** If we are the kind of people as Paul was then our self-sacrifice humility and love will be used to heal the sick and cause those tormented by evil to become whole in Christ!

Vs. 13-17 The second story that shows what the life controlled by the Spirit will look like is more about what it won't look like. These guys went around casting demons out of people who were possessed, ***for profit***, which would make them ***economic exorcists***. As the Word about Jesus traveled and evil spirits came out of people they started using words like a **magic formula**. Luke tells us that seven of them were sons of Sceva (prepared) whose dad they claimed was the Chief priest. When they commanded the evil spirit to come out they did so “*by the Jesus whom Paul preaches*”. The answer back from the evil spirit was literally, “**Jesus, I know Him well, Paul, I'm familiar with, but who are**

you?'" This one demon possessed man comes and whips on the seven sons, leaving them overcome, naked and wounded.

What do we see in this section about the life controlled by the Spirit? **A life controlled by the power of God is due to a relationship with a person not practicing a formula! If you want the power of the Spirit of God in your life it can only happen by maintaining a relationship with Him.** Trying to fake the Holy Spirit will leave you:

- **Overcome**
- **Feeling naked**
- **Wounded**

Because of this incident people came to Jesus and the true relationship to Him was magnified.

Vs. 18-20 Lastly, Luke reveals the final way we can see a life controlled by the Holy Spirit. Two things are mentioned here:

1. Vs. 18-19 **On going changed lives:** Luke tells us that after this those that were Christians living with one foot in the world came on their own confessing that they were not living as they ought. Those that were hanging onto their magic books burnt them and the loss would have amounted to a year's wage of 150 men.
2. Vs. 20 **Growing in the Word of God:** The Word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. A life controlled by the Holy Spirit will be best seen through personal change and growth in the Word.