

ACTS 19 NIV Study Guide

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples **2** and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." **3** So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. **4** Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **5** On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. **7** There were about twelve men in all.

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. **9** But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. **10** This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. **11** God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. **15** One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" **16** Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. **17** When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. **18** Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. **19** A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. **20** In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

21 After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must visit Rome also." **22** He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer. **23** About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. **24** A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. **25** He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. **26** And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. **27** There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty." **28** When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **29** Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater. **30** Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. **31** Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater. **32** The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. **33** The Jews pushed Alexander to the front, and some of the crowd shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. **34** But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **35** The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? **36** Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and not do anything rash. **37** You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed

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temples nor blasphemed our goddess. **38** If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. **39** If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. **40** As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of today's events. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it." **41** After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

Read this chapter completely before starting the questions. It will be easier to get a grasp of all the events if you have read it over first. Pray and ask the Lord to help you glean from His word what he would have for you today. Ask Him to speak to your heart and then respond in obedience.

1. Where do we find Paul as we begin this chapter?
2. Who is he talking to?
 - Disciples: means learner or follower not necessarily "believer"
3. What is he doing?
4. What is the partial truth that these believers know and what does Paul share with them that changed their lives forever?

Paul continues to stay and teach in their temple for three months.

5. Does everyone agree with his teaching?
6. What is meant by the word "hardened"? look up the Greek word and explain what is happening here. Greek-Skleruno (we get the medical term Sclerosis from this word)
7. How does Paul handle this?
8. Why do you suppose he chose to move his teaching instead of standing up and calling them out on the issues? What was his objective? What was his goal?
9. Do you ever have to make this choice? What is the determining factor?

The next couple of verses sometimes create problems for believers that do not carefully read and study them. The scriptures say that God worked extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul.

10. Do you believe it was the cloth itself that had some magical ability to heal or do you believe that their faith in the Jesus who the people had heard of through Paul's preaching brought them the gift of healing? We must be very careful, as Paul always was, to give God the glory for His marvelous works.

John Piper teaching on the occult... God opposes our involvement in the occult because it belittles God and exalts man. Or to put it another way, the occult is simply a continuation of the ancient satanic deception in Genesis 3:5: "Go beyond what God has appointed, and you shall become like God." Consulting mediums, tea leaves, fortune cookies, horoscopes, crystal balls, palmists, or any other oracles beyond God's Word is wrong because it belittles God as an inadequate revealer of mysteries. It says that God is either unable or unwilling to tell me all that is good for me to know. Therefore, he lacks the power or the goodness to help me, and so I will take matters into my own hands. Therefore, people who really love God and trust his goodness and depend on his sovereign power shun all practices of the occult.

11. Vs 13-16 What profession did these men practice? (like Simon Magus in Acts 8, and Bar-Jesus in Acts 13)
12. What was said to them in verse 15?
13. Did they have any power over the evil spirits?

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14. According to Ephesians 6:12 why did they not have power?
15. In our own strength are we any match for the powers of Satan?
We must be very careful not attempt to do ministry in our own strength or ability.
16. Phil. 4:13 “I can do all things through _____ who strengthens me”
17. According to Acts 1:8 when and how did the apostles receive power to do what God was calling them to do?
18. Romans 1:16 **Paul says** “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the _____ for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”
19. Word spread that these false healers had been completely overpowered by the evil spirits. They had been badly beaten and they had run out of the house naked and wounded. When others heard this incredible story what happened?
20. Have you ever been involved in a revival like this? Some great event good or bad occurs and it drives many to their knees. The 9/11 tragedy was such an incident. Many people chose to repent and get their hearts right and stop some unholy things in their lives.
God was glorified and he blessed the sharing of his word. Vs. 20

Now we are going to take a look at vss. 21 – 41

21. Paul decides to go to _____.
22. He sends _____ and _____ to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

As usual Paul has no time for rest, a great disturbance breaks out about “The Way”. (this was one of the names used to refer to followers of Christ)

23. Who is upset?
24. Who is he trying to stir up also?
25. How did these men make their living?
26. What were the two reasons Demetrius gave the others saying they should be concerned?
27. This is a true mob mentality. What does the mob do in verse 29?
 - Obviously Paul was not standing there or he would have been taken into the theater also.
28. Have you ever witnessed a mob out of control? It is a frightening thing. They move as a force and many do not even know why they are there or why everyone is so upset. That was the case with this mob.
29. Who advised Paul not to go to the theatre? Vs.30
30. What was the crowd yelling and how long did they continue to yell?
31. Finally the city clerk (kind of like our mayor) gets the crowd to calm down a bit and he tries to reason with them. How does he get them to calm down?
He goes on to quote the fables that have been passed down concerning this goddess Artemis. How did he say this goddess had come into being?
32. Why would the city clerk be so concerned with stopping this riot? Who stood to be held responsible for this mob?
 - The Roman government was not going to look on this uproar with favor. They might even think the people were trying to revolt. Roman guards were not likely to get to the bottom of the matter before taking action.

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- Just the mention of the word mob and a mental picture pops up. An unruly crowd that has been stirred up by a few, they usually end with destructive actions. It is not hard to picture since we see this type of behavior more often than we would like on the news.
 - We must be careful to weigh things out and decide for ourselves the truth of the situation and not get caught up in what everyone else is doing. My mother used to tell me to see what everyone else is doing and do the opposite. That may be a bit of an over exaggeration but you would probably get into less trouble since following the crowd is almost always dangerous.
33. What have you seen in this chapter that will help you in your walk of faith?
34. Who is our example? Are you being transformed into his likeness?
2 Cor. 3:18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*
35. What will this transformation look like in your life? How are you more like Jesus today than yesterday...last month...last year? I am not necessarily talking about what sins have you repented of and stopped; I am referring to your heart and mind. This word "transformed" is Metamorphoo in the Greek. Is also used in Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
36. Salvation is a onetime event in our lives. We ask Christ to come into our lives and forgive our sins and he does. Our forgiveness is complete; it is for our past, present and future sins. Christ died once for all sin. But our sanctification (which is a big word for the on-going change of our heart and mind) goes on our entire life. Every day we live as a believer should be lived with purpose and the desire to become more like Christ.

John MacArthur's (notes on "his likeness")

"The "image" of God includes every way in which humans are like God, such as their moral character, their knowledge, their many God-given abilities, and their dominion over creation, to be exercised with dependence on God as the Creator and giver of all things."

This type of dependence will take a change on our part. It will involve a renewing of our minds.

Spend some time today thinking about your transformation.

Discuss what this means to the body of Christ when you gather in your group.