

"POWER ENCOUNTER!!!!"

10 / 8 / 17

Acts 19:1-7 (Story is through v. 20) (NIV) (Was 1065, 9/30/07; 1464, 10/21/12)
 (Was SERM_302, 9/15/96; 764, 9/28/03)

INTRODUCTION — Nancy and I had a WONDERFUL HONEYMOON in **FLORIDA** 27 YEARS AGO, but "ALL GOOD THINGS COME TO AN END," so we returned to POWELL, TN, (just north of KNOXVILLE) where I lived in the PARSONAGE of the little church where I was pastor. We walked into the house, flipped on the light switch— NO LIGHTS. Nancy tried to call her mother to tell her we were home— NO PHONE— LINE WAS DEAD. I tried to turn on the T.V.— NO T.V.!! I said, "LET'S GO BACK TO FLORIDA!!" THERE WAS NO POWER IN THE HOUSE!!

(Lightning had struck THE DAY BEFORE and come in on the power line: it FRIED ONE PHONE and the ANSWERING MACHINE; the T.V.; & the fuses.)

WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT IS TO LOSE POWER IN OUR HOMES!! BUT— TOO MANY CHRISTIANS try to LIVE WITHOUT POWER IN THEIR LIVES! It can happen to ANY OF US, if we're not careful. **WE TRY to LIVE the CHRISTIAN LIFE as GOD WANTS US TO DO— BUT IT SEEMS THAT WE DON'T HAVE the STRENGTH or POWER TO DO IT RIGHT!!!**

FORTUNATELY, the EARLY APOSTLES, PREACHERS and MISSIONARIES— including the APOSTLE PAUL— found POWER that was available to them to be SUCCESSFUL in their mission. **SO— WHAT @ POWER for CHRISTIANS??**

I. ACTS OF POWER — as described in ACTS 19:1-7

A. The HOLY SPIRIT, our "SOURCE of POWER," comes w/ BELIEF in J. C.!

1. JOHN the BAPTIZER had BAPTIZED these "DISCIPLES" (or perhaps some of JOHN'S followers had). BUT, the APOSTLE PAUL EXPLAINED, HIS WAS ONLY a BAPTISM ACKNOWLEDGING "REPENTANCE."

2. **BAPTISM in JESUS CHRIST**, however, signifies ***FORGIVENESS of SIN*** and ***ACCEPTANCE by GOD*** for ETERNAL LIFE, and ***INCORPORATES US into***, or ***MAKES US PART OF*** the ***BODY of CHRIST***— and ***EMPOWERS*** US with the HOLY SPIRIT.
3. These ***“DISCIPLES of JOHN”*** discovered this as PAUL spoke to them, and prayed for them and LAID HANDS ON THEM. THEY BECAME not only “GOOD, HOLY PEOPLE” but ***FOLLOWERS of the LORD JESUS*** and ***“COMPLETED CHRISTIANS!”***
- **** 4. **LESSON:** It is not ENOUGH to be a “GOOD, HONEST, LAW- ABIDING” person in God’s eyes. ***We MUST BELIEVE that JESUS is the RISEN SAVIOR***, and BE BAPTIZED INTO the BODY of CHRIST, the CHURCH. And ***THEN— WE RECEIVE the HOLY SPIRIT, ONCE FOR ALL—*** no “2nd ***BLESSING***” or later experience is needed. WE MAY DISCOVER a ***DEEPER EXPERIENCE*** of God ***MONTHS*** or ***YEARS*** DOWN THE ROAD— ***I HOPE WE ALL DO!! THAT IS CALLED “SPIRITUAL GROWTH!!!!”***
5. **BUT— IF YOU ARE A REAL, DEDICATED CHRISTIAN TODAY**, A CONVINCED and COMMITTED FOLLOWER of JESUS CHRIST, then the ***HOLY SPIRIT of GOD is WITHIN YOU!!***

B. THE RESULTS OF THAT POWER:

1. v. 8-10: ***POWERFUL SERMONS were PREACHED about JESUS CHRIST :***
And PAUL stayed there for TWO YEARS TO PREACH!
2. v. 11-12: ***MIRACLES WERE PERFORMED!!*** Even HANDKERCHIEFS and APRONS that had touched PAUL TRANSMITTED GOD’S HEALING POWER. (Ever wonder where those “TV evangelists” got their idea for “PRAYER CLOTHS” or “HEALING HANDKERCHIEFS”??)

C. SO— as we see in vv. 17-19— EVIL WAS REBUKED (*Read vv. 17-19*)

1. People who witnessed the POWER of GOD REPENTED, CONFESSED
THEIR EVIL DEEDS

2. AND THOSE WHO PRACTICED WITCHCRAFT PUT THEIR MYSTICAL WRITINGS TO THE TORCH— and the VALUE of those books in

TODAY'S DOLLARS would be between **3 and 5 MILLION DOLLARS!!**

D. The END RESULT of all this: v. 20— *“THE WORD of the LORD SPREAD WIDELY AND GREW IN POWER.”*

II. POWER FOR LIVING — TODAY !!

A. TOO MANY CHRISTIANS LIVE TODAY AS *“SPIRITUAL PAUPERS”*—

1. POOR, POWERLESS, as if LIGHTNING HAS STRUCK THEIR HOUSE!!!

2. FOR INSTANCE, there was once a woman worth \$100 MILLION, but she lived as tho' she was POVERTY-STRICKEN. HER MANSION was never heated— she didn't want to buy HEATING OIL. **SHE ATE COLD OATMEAL— she didn't want to SPEND the MONEY to HEAT the WATER!!** HER ADULT SON WAS INJURED— **SHE REFUSED TO PAY for HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT!! — HIS LEG HAD TO BE AMPUTATED!!!**

3. THE SPIRITUAL LIVES OF TOO MANY CHRISTIANS LOOKS LIKE THAT LADIES' LIFE!!!! —>> **POWERLESS!!!**

B. SO— YOU HAVE THAT POWER seen in ACTS 19— **TODAY!!!**

AVAILABLE— TO YOU!!!!

1. IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN TODAY, a committed believer and follower of JESUS CHRIST— the HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU NOW !!

The HOLY SPIRIT WHO BRINGS GOD'S POWER FOR DYNAMIC, LOVING, SUCCESSFUL LIVING— IS IN YOU TODAY!!!!

2. SO— HOW CAN WE BE SURE WE HAVE THE “HOLY SPIRIT”???

DO WE HAVE TO BE “CHARISMATICS” or “PENTECOSTALS” or what my GRANDMOTHER used to call “HOLY ROLLERS”???!?

3. WRITE THIS DOWN— look it up when you get home. ROMANS 8:9-11

(I'm reading from the *NEW CHILDREN'S BIBLE*— Contemporary English Version)

– v. 9: “You are no longer ruled by your [sinful] desires, but by God’s SPIRIT, who lives in you.”

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD LIVES IN YOU??!?

– v. 9b: “People who don’t have the SPIRIT of CHRIST in them DON’T BELONG TO CHRIST.” SO: IF YOU DO NOT HAVE the SPIRIT of GOD, *YOU’RE NOT A CHRISTIAN!!!*

– v. 10: “But CHRIST lives in you.” — IF YOU SAY THAT JESUS IS YOUR SAVIOR!!!

– v. 11: “God’s SPIRIT now lives in you, and He will raise you to life by His SPIRIT.” (As He raised Christ.)

4. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK IN TONGUES or HEAL THE SICK or CLIMB ON PEWS to HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE!!

(GOD may want SOME CHRISTIANS to do that!! *BUT NOT YOU!!!*)

C. SO, IF YOU ARE a CHRISTIAN—*YOU HAVE the HOLY SPIRIT !!*
YOU DON'T NEED MORE!!! *YOU JUST NEED TO GET OUT OF YOU*
the BLESSINGS and JOY and LOVE that YOU’VE ALREADY GOT!!

1. GOD’S BLESSINGS and JOY and LOVE are not meant to be KEPT IN
and JUST ENJOYED BY US, SELFISHLY— GOD WANTS TO POUR HIS
BLESSINGS and JOY and LOVE TO FLOW OUT TO OTHERS THROUGH US!!

D. WELL, THEN, HOW DO YOU “GET the SPIRIT of GOD ‘FLOWING’
OUT OF YOU?????”

1. YOU DO IT BY WHAT YOU SAY and what YOU DO!!

2. STRIKE UP a CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE at WORK or SCHOOL:

“WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT JESUS???” LISTEN for a reply—
REALLY LISTEN, and hear what they say. Then suggest: “*Did you know that JESUS rose from the dead, is ALIVE NOW, and wants to have a RELATIONSHIP with you, to lead and direct and guide you, and give TRUE MEANING to your life???*” SADIE SEXTON — Apostles Creed!

**(PRAY FIRST!!) THEN— TRY IT — SEE WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE YOU GET.
— DO IT OUT OF LOVE!!! AND REMEMBER— The MORE LOVE YOU GIVE
AWAY— THE MORE YOU HAVE!!!!**

**E. BECAUSE the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD IS DWELLING WITHIN EACH of
US to BRING US POWERFUL, JOY-FILLED and SUCCESSFUL LIVING,
GOD CALLS EVERY CHRISTIAN TO SHARE THEIR FAITH.**

**1. Not just PREACHERS, LAY LEADERS, or SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS,
BUT ALL CHRISTIANS!!!**

**2. The METHODIST BISHOP in KENYA, AFRICA, after BAPTIZING new
CONVERTS to CHRIST, has them place their HAND on their FOREHEAD and
repeat *I CORINTHIANS 9:16*— “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”
LET’S TRY THAT OURSELVES— (At end of bulletin insert)**

**3. I AM SO PROUD of PEOPLE in this CHURCH, for the SUPPORT and
PRAYERS and VISITS to ESTHER SMITH and SERITA DUNCAN...**

F. ONE WOMAN WHO LIVED BY THIS ATTITUDE:

**1. HOPE KAWASHIMA learned to pray from the time she was a little girl. She found
PEACE and JOY in devotion time with GOD, regardless of her circumstances.
In COLLEGE, she prayed each night with her ROOMMATE. They invited
others girls to join in, and pretty soon MOST OF THE GIRLS ON THEIR
DORM FLOOR JOINED THEM FOR EVENING DEVOTIONS!**

**2. AFTER COLLEGE, she began to work as a MUSIC THERAPIST in
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS, and found that PRAYER and BIBLE READING
DAILY gave her strength to carry her through DIFFICULT work.**

She encouraged some of her patients to pray, and led some in the singing of
hymns, as GOOD THERAPY, yet with **POWERFUL RESULTS**. One woman,
who had been CATATONIC for years (You know what CATATONIC IS—
NO TALKING, NO CONTACT with OTHERS, STARE AT WALLS, etc.)-
SHE SUDDENLY JOINED in the WEEKLY HYMN SING-A-LONG!!

3. Some people thought HOPE was WEIRD or STRANGE BECAUSE SHE had such a STRONG FAITH and TALKED OPENLY ABOUT IT. But she says:

***“IF OUR FAITH IS OUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND COMFORT,
WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.”***

(See ROMANS 1:16, printed on the bottom of the SERMON OUTLINE.)

***CONCLUSION— SO— FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS
EVERY DAY!!!!***

***AS YOU GROW IN LOVE with JESUS CHRIST EVERY
DAY, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP YOURSELF
FROM SHARING HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS!!!***

SO— FLOW OUT OF HERE!!! TODAY!!!!

***AND— REMEMBER THOSE BIBLE VERSES in the
BULLETIN—***

***“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of
God for the salvation of everyone who believes...”***

— Romans 1:16

“Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”

— I Corinthians 9:16