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The Holy Spirit Received at Ephesus

([Joel 2:28-32](#); [John 14:15-26](#); [John 16:5-16](#); [Acts 2:1-13](#); [Acts 10:44-48](#))

Acts 19:[1](#)And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

So, according to this, Apollos was on the Greek Isle in Corinth and Paul was across the Aegean Sea in Ephesus.

[2](#)He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

[3](#)And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. [4](#)Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should 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 *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. [7](#)And all the men were about twelve.

We discussed this at some length in Acts 18 about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Paul Ministers in Ephesus

([Revelation 2:1-7](#))

8And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. **9**But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. **10**And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

11And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: **12**So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Again, religions have made doctrines of verses like this. A pastor in America in his advertisement would tell people that if they needed prayer, he would send them a piece of cloth that he had touched, and their prayers would be answered. This was usually accompanied by a plea for money. The question in most of our minds are these miracles for today?

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Acts 14:3 3Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

The key to both of these verses and many others that speak about the moving of the Holy Spirit through Christ and His Apostles and close associates chosen by God is; ***“granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands”***, and ***“Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs,”*** In both cases it was given them by God to validate they were the true witnesses of God, His Chosen Son and Apostles.

So back to the question are miracles done today. God commits acts of miracles as He sees fit every day. Are there miraculous healings today, absolutely, but rarely by the hand of a person, it is reserved for God and His Will that determines who is healed. I think the reason is that God knows what everyone of us will endure. If we reach a point that God does not want us to endure a certain pain, or thing, then He decides whether to take us home rather than allowing us to endure something. Some He allows to endure; He knows the power of their witness to an unbelieving world.

In the end it is His decision. But it is incumbent on us to pray for the sick, to seek God's Will in all things. I do not think there is a more powerful approach to God than to ask Him that His Will be

done. A hard prayer simply due to our surrendering to His Will and not our own.

Comment on New Apostolic Reformation an unbiblical religious movement started in Redding CA. The founder is Bill Johnson. Also associated with NAR are Rick Joyner, Kim Clement, and Lou Engle, and thousands of other pastors and churches. They do not take the Bible as literal but instead the entire Bible is allegorical figurative or symbolic. They believe they have been given special dispensation to recapture what they call the Seven Mountain doctrine. Just like the Mormons, Jehovah Witness and any of a hundred other false religions all claiming they were the “chosen” to bring new revelation to mankind.

From Got Questions:

“The New Apostolic Reformation sees seven areas in which believers are supposedly empowered and expected to dominate: government, arts, finances, education, religion, family, and media. Of these, the New Apostolic Reformation sees government as the most important because of its ability to influence all of the other facets of life. As a result, the New Apostolic Reformation overtly encourages Christian control over politics, culture, and business.”

As is so often the case of any “new revelation” theology, these groups will start new religions, claiming new knowledge that had been hidden until now and until they were chosen to reveal it. They are what is called “kingdom now” or “dominion” theology.

That there is no 1000-year reign of Christ that it is incumbent on them, on us to prepare the world, retake the world so that is ready for Christ. That He won't return until we have conquered those seven mountains.

Again, from Got Questions:

"The seven mountain (7-M) mandate or the seven mountain prophecy is a strategy for evangelizing the modern world and enlarging Christ's kingdom. It has especially gained a following in [Charismatic](#) and [Pentecostal](#) churches. Those who follow the seven mountain mandate believe that the best way for the church to be effective is to bring change in the seven major spheres of influence in society."

Another common theme is replacement theology, where in they all believe they are the "chosen people of God" and that they have replaced Israel. All, damnable lies.

I apologize for bringing all of this to answer the simple question; are miracles for today? Short Answer; All in God's Will.

So surely anyone who calls on the name of Jesus to cause healings, remove demons are authorized by God, right?

The Sons of Sceva

[13](#)Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. [14](#)And there were seven sons of

one Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so. [15](#)And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

Demons know stuff because they operate in the Spiritual Realm which we know exists but cannot see. We as Believers often ask people if they know Jesus, an important question to be sure. But demons know Jesus.

[Luke 4:34](#)

"Ha! What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"

There is a more important question we need to ask ourselves:

Matthew 7: [21](#)Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22](#)Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23](#)And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

How do we know that Jesus knows us? By doing the Will of His Father. "***but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven***" Jesus says; "***shall enter into the kingdom of heaven***"

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[16](#)And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

The Spiritual Universe is ruled by God, but evil has been allowed to operate under certain conditions within the spirit and physical realms since the fall of Satan.

Isaiah 14: [12](#)How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations![13](#)For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:[14](#)I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.[15](#)Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Part of Satan's fallen angels manifest themselves now as demons and can occupy unbelievers. I believe like the Father of Lies Satan they can change their appearances and or occupy any organic thing, like these demons in vs 16. I think they can manifest themselves to look like many things, including Big Foot, UFO's etc. Scripture gives few descriptions of demons but makes it clear they can assume various forms. For example in Revelation 16:13 they appear as frogs.

Ephesians 2:2 [2](#)Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

There are two reported expulsions of Satan, this is the first that likely happened before Adam and Eve were created. God

expelled Satan to the earth with limited access to heaven (Job 1:6) for his sin of desiring to be equal with God.

Job 1: [6](#)Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. [7](#)And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

God has placed limits on those demons and evil spirits (fallen angels) that operate in both the spiritual and physical realm. God will use them as He sees fit to bring about His Perfect Will. They won't like being used but they gave up their first estate and fell with Satan and will do as allowed, when and where God chooses.

There will be a second ejection of Satan from any access to heaven at the beginning of the Tribulation.

Revelation 12: [7](#)And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, [8](#)And prevailed not; **neither was their place found any more in heaven.** [9](#)And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: **he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.** [10](#)And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. [11](#)And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. [12](#)Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth**

and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Emphasis mine)

People who reject Christ are open targets of these evil spirits. People who trifle with the occult are targets. They chose to reject Christ and God, so God allows them to be used by these evil spirits. But always with a purpose, to bring about God's Perfect Will in the life of the used vessel or in the lives of others. Demons can trifle with Believers but are not allowed to enter them. God has even told us that if a loved one is so deep in sin and obstinate about believing in Christ that we should do this.

1 Corinthians 5: [5](#) To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

God gives hope that if the flesh of a non-believer is destroyed by Satan that in that even the person in their Spirit turns to Christ then they will be saved.

Not all bad things that happen to a Believer are from evil spirits. In life there are just some bad things and good things that happen, God is well aware of them and will give strength to the Believer to endure. To that point Jesus said that God causes the sun to rise on evil and on good.

Matthew 5: [45](#) That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil

and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

One point here, and I think there are many points that Jesus made; I think here is that God established many laws governing this earth, things that are unchangeable because He determined them to act in a certain way. Such as gravity, earth rotation, moon and sun rotation, tides, rain and snow, four seasons; etc. It is all created by Him to behave in a certain manner that no one can change except Him. They are the natural laws ordered by God. So, events happen that are brought about by these laws and both good and bad people are affected. The only thing that will change or can change an event is prayer and God Willing to intervene if He so chooses. It is not that God is ambivalent, harsh, or uncaring, He has the complete view of time and life for each of us. He knows what is best for each Believer at any time. We may pray for life and God says, "no". What are we to make of that as Believers. Quite simply, we are not God, He is, and we have to put our full trust and faith in Him. Whatever God does is the RIGHT thing to do.

Back to the demons, by the Name of Jesus, they are stopped from causing impact to Believers. Some Believers believe they are given authority to speak the Name of Jesus and demons have to obey. I know that was true and directed by Jesus to his 70

disciples, I prefer to follow the example of Michael the Arch Angel when he while in combat with Satan said, “The Lord rebuke you!”. I think by doing it the way that Michael did it, it takes in the full council and power of God and the choice is left in His hands.

17And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

Fear is not all bad for the Believer, especially if the outcome is the magnification of the name of Jesus. We often fear what we don't understand and can't see.

Hebrews 12: 28Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29For our God is a consuming fire.

The Believer should be afraid in only one thing; Fear of the Lord God; a Holy and contrite fear of the Creator. God told us that He did not give us the Spirit of Fear: meaning to fear physical or spiritual things that are not God.

2 Timothy1:7For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

On the other hand, for the unbeliever, fear is a dreadful thing when it comes to God the Creator.

Luke 12: [5](#)But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

[18](#)And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

There was an unquenchable desire on the part of those who had been involved in the mystical arts to confess their deeds and show that they had abandoned them for the sake of Jesus. That same desire should embrace all Believers to confess our sins, that the burden of sin is lifted from our souls, knowing we are saved by the Blood of Christ and Faith in Him.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[19](#)Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. [20](#)So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

This was an outward sign of repentance, a showing of releasing or rebuking a past sin in order to fully walk in God's Mercy and Grace. Similar to Baptism when we confess that we are a sinner and need a Savior publically. Saying out loud in public that Jesus is that Savior and will be the King of our lives.

The outcome from a true confession of our sinful lives in the growth of Godly living and walking in Righteousness with our Lord and Savior.

The Riot in Ephesus

21After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. 22So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

These verses set the stage for what is to come for Paul, and those who aid him in his ministry to the Gentiles.

In these next few verses, we will see something took place in Ephesus in May of each year. There was an event, the worship of Artemis in Greek and Diana to the Roman culture. All sorts of people would travel from some distance to see or participate in decadent immoral worship of Artemis. Artemis in Greek legend was the daughter of Zeus and Leto and had a twin brother Apollo.

The work of the Holy Spirit through Paul had brought many former cultists to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. That fact would run headlong into the cult worship of the Greeks and Romans.

23And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. 24For a certain *man* named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

A lucrative business when the festivals were underway. Like so many things in America today when a large event takes place people who make their living catering to folks at these events make a good income. Same with Demetrius the silversmith.

These profiteers are going to object to their customers being taken from them by this Paul and his teaching of Jesus the Messiah. These men plied their trade on those who were trapped in this occult worship of false gods and goddesses.

25Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. 26Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: 27So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshipping.

Where there is no moral character but only the desire to make money at all costs, we always find anger and hatred of the Truth. How many companies do we know of today that will sell their very

souls to ensure they make a profit? Not only business but also politicians that have sold their power to the highest bidder all to become rich.

28And when they heard *these sayings*, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians.

These hustlers will always take the focus off of themselves and transfer it to something or someone else. It is a practiced even today and has as its source the Father of Lies Satan.

29And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

A couple of points to make here. The idea of a theater is due to it accommodating a large group of people. The intent on Demetrius and his fellow occult craftsmen was to have as large a crowd as possible when they make their accusations against these men. The charge would of course be the destruction of the goddess Dianna. That would not stand with this occult group.

As to the identity of the two men seized they will show up later in various important positions with Paul and the Ministry.

This from Endicott's Commentary:

"Gaius and Aristarchus.--The former name represents the Roman "Caius." It was one of the commonest of Latin names, and appears as belonging to four persons in the New Testament: (1) the Macedonian mentioned here; (2) Gaius of Derbe (but see

Note on Acts 20:4; (3) Gaius of Corinth, the host of St. Paul, whom he baptised with his own hands (Romans 16:23; 1Corinthians 1:14); (4) Gaius to whom St. John addressed his third Epistle; (3) and (4), however, may probably be the same. (See Introduction to the Third Epistle General of John.) Of Aristarchus we learn, from Acts 20:4, that he was of Thessalonica. As such he had probably had some previous experience of such violence, and had, we may believe, shown courage in resisting it (1Thessalonians 2:14). He appears as one of St. Paul's companions in the journey to Jerusalem (Acts 20:4), probably as a delegate from the Macedonian churches. He appears, from Colossians 4:10, to have been a Jewish convert, and to have shared the Apostle's imprisonment at Rome, either as himself under arrest, or, more probably, as voluntarily accepting confinement in the Apostle's hired house (Acts 28:30), that he might minister to his necessities. The description given of them, as "Paul's companions in travel" is not without significance as implying a missionary activity beyond the walls of Ephesus, in which they had been sharers. . . ."

30And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. 31And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring *him* that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

They had two of Paul's companions and would prefer to have Paul himself to stand before this unruly crowd. Friends of Paul would not stand for him to be put in there.

It is a rare thing to find someone who can speak to crowds that are in an uproar but in this case, it is going to be the local town

clerk. Obviously of some renowned and power as he calms the crowd.

32Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together. 33And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.

The Jews were afraid that they would be lumped in with Paul and his team, so they wanted to make it clear that the Jewish community was not involved in this issue. The crowd new that the Jews did not hold with idols as it was against their religion so they were not inclined to believe Alexander.

34But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians.

The occultist of course wanting to make their position clear yelled for two hours that Diana of Ephesus is the Great goddess.

Finally steps in the town clerk to get control of things.

35And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the *image* which fell down from Jupiter? 36Seeing then that

these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

His false point is that who would ever speak against Diana in Ephesus, it just could not happen?

37For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

All the supposition made by the craftsmen was all hearsay, no one had heard them declare any desire to destroy the temple of Diana. That would be in God's hands.

The clerk now recites the manner in which the law was to be conducted and made it clear they as a crowd were on the verge of violating laws themselves, which might bring the Roman military down on them.

38Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another. 39But if ye inquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly. 40For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse. 41And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

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