

Title: **Burn the Books!**
Text: **Acts 19:8-20**
Date: **November 9, 2025**

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Big Idea

We all want more of God's power in our lives. But do we know how to get it? This text shows us the way!

1. They're Seeing It

Observation #1: It Arises from God - There is no glory in this for Paul, it is all from God (v. 11).

Observation #2: It Attests to Paul - While these miracles do not arise from Paul, they do attest to him as an authoritative messenger of God (2 Cor. 12:12).

Observation #3: It Adorns the Word - You don't get the miracles apart from the message. They are, rather, a manifestation of the message.

2. They're Chasing It

Hint #1: The Self-Centered Approach - Christianity is not something you can just take up when it suits you, when it seems like it might be profitable for you. Oh no! You don't take Christianity up. Christianity is something that takes you up. You can't just mix Jesus in alongside your other worldly values and commitments and expect him to "work."

Hint #2: The Second-Hand Invocation - We try to use Jesus for his stuff. We invoke his name, but we don't care about his heart. We want his power, but we don't care about his person. We want the blessing, not the blessing; the gifts, not the giver.

Hint #3: The Script-Flipping Result - They were coming in to drive the demons out. But, instead, it's the demons that drive them out. It's, as one commentator puts it, a "reverse exorcism." It's a flipped script.

3. They're Getting It

They repent and believe. Yes, that's where the Christian life begins. But it's also how it continues on in power. We don't just repent and believe once. It's not a one-and-done thing. We repent and re-root ourselves in Jesus by faith time and again, day by day. It's the race of repentance. It's the walk of faith.

Aspect #1: It's Personal - They come "confessing and divulging their practices" (v. 18).

Aspect #2: It's Public - They don't care what people think. They don't care about their image or their reputation, saving face. None of that. They just want to get right with Jesus!

Aspect #3: It's Pervasive - With Jesus, you don't get to put up a barrier and say: "You can have that part of my life, but not this part." He's either Lord over all of it or, truly, he's Lord over none of it. You either give him everything or, truly, you give him nothing. There is no coregency in the kingdom of heaven. He's the king and you are not.

If you really want God's power in your life, this is the way to get it. If you want him to take you up in power, you've got to lay yourself down in humble submission. It might not feel like you're stepping towards a place of power—to be confessing your sin, humiliating yourself in public, laying your stuff and yourself on the altar. But do you want to know what you are really doing in those moments? You are readying yourself for revival! You are throwing open the doors and the windows of your soul, making way for a fresh wind of the Spirit of almighty God to come hurricaning through.

So you've got a choice: Are you going to keep compromising and, thereby, hollow out your power in the spiritual realm, or are you going to go all in for Jesus? Are you going to keep the books . . . or are you going to burn them?



Reflection Questions

- When was the last time you really experienced the presence and power of God in a significant way? How did this come about do you think?
- Are there ways you've compromised a bit spiritually? Are there parts of your old life and value system that you have not surrendered to Jesus? Do you have any books that need to burn?

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Our Mission & Values

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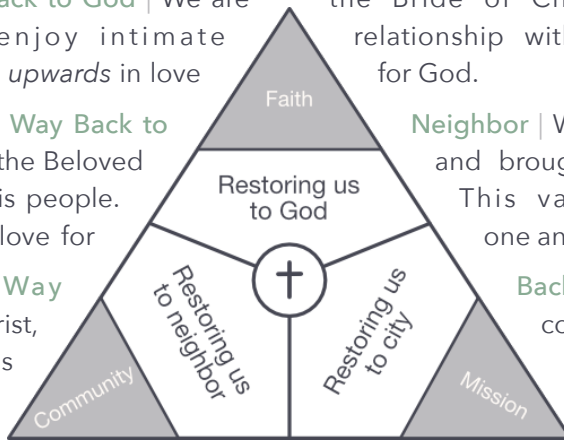
FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the



Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.

Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Appreciation Lunch - 12/7!

Mercy Hill has so many wonderful people who keep all the various dimensions of our ministry thriving and fruitful. And we want to appreciate them! So immediately following the service on Sunday, December 7th, we are planning to have a special all church lunch (think Pizza My Heart pizza party, with salad, dessert, etc.) as a way of saying thanks. The whole church is invited to stay after and participate as we look to particularly appreciate those who have served in various capacities throughout this last year. We hope you can join us!

If you're planning to come, please help us prepare by RSVP'ing (scan the QR code below to find the link).

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Upcoming Perspectives Class!

Philippines Missions Trip - Two Ways to Support!

Scan the QR code below for more info!

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