

Acts of the Holy Spirit  
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“The Mission, The Mess, The Ministry”**  
➢ (Acts 19:11-22) NKJV

~INTRO~

OK... LAST WEEK...

- We learned the *expansion of faith*...  
➢ Is a work of the Spirit and NOT of man.

AND... WE SAW THIS DEMONSTRATED THRU...

- Three works of the Spirit... revealed in the N.T.

*Para / En / Epi* – (Greek prepositional phrases)...

- Which are descriptive of the Holy Spirit's work in man.
  - Comes alongside a person (conviction of sin / *repentance*)
    - (John 14:17)
  - Comes into a person (new life / *born again*)
    - (2 Cor. 5:17)
  - Comes upon a person (power / *baptism of fire to be a witness*)
    - (Acts 1:8)

AGAIN... COLLECTIVELY...

- ***The Work of The Spirit.***

READ (vv.11-12) NKJV

HERE'S A FEW THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF:

**IDEA #1 – GOD SETS PEOPLE FREE:**

THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THIS PASSAGE IS (v.11) ...

- “*God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul.*”

THE SUPERNATURAL WORK OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT...

- Is needed in our time... just as much as it was 2,000 years ago!
- Many people in the Church today are suffering...

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- From a lack of what Jesus offers...
  - Because they’re spiritually unhealthy!

(Hosea 4:6a) NLT

*“My people are being destroyed because they don’t know Me.”*

JESUS SAID... DESPERATE PEOPLE

- Have a place to find hope...
  - (Matt. 11:28-30) NLT

AND...

(Eph. 2:12b-13) NLT

*“You lived in this world without God and without hope. **But now** you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, **but now** you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ.”*

WHEN WE FORGET THESE TRUTHS...

- Disastrous results happen... as man... tries to implement help...
  - Separate from the Holy Spirit.

(vv13-16)

**IDEA #2 – THE SPIRIT OF ERROR:**

OTHERS TRIED TO COPY GOD’S HEALING...

- With their books of human wisdom (v.19)
  - But it failed!

HURTING PEOPLE... SEEKING REMEDIES TO...

- Addictions / mental health / spiritual problems / & sickness
  - (Mark 2:17)
- People hungry for change...
  - But running to the wrong source!
    - (Jer. 2:13) NLT

JESUS SPEAKING TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN....

- Who had been divorced (5x)...

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- And living with a boyfriend.
  - (Pain / damage / scars)
    - [\(John 4:13-14\) NLT](#) = work of the Spirit

PASTORS...

- Are to apply the word of God to people's lives.

BUT IN MODERN TIMES...

- Believers have chosen to turn to worldly sources...
  - [\(2 Tim 4:1-5\) NLT](#)

POPULAR PRACTICES TODAY...

- ***Counselors*** (hold bachelor's degrees) to help people with work & life...
  - Challenges on a short-term basis.
- ***Therapist*** (hold master's degrees)...
  - To help people with mental health issues of...
    - Impairment & disorder on an ongoing basis.
- ***Psychologist*** (hold doctorate level degrees)...
  - And help people with chronic mental health conditions.
    - **(But they cannot prescribe medication)**
- ***Psychiatrist*** (medical doctor + diagnosis & treatment of mental illness)
  - They can prescribe medication for...
    - schiz·o·phre·ni·a / bipolar disorder / severe depression.
      - Illnesses that are lifelong.

WE LEARN...

- From the Biblical worldview ...
  - That man does NOT have a permanent fix to offer!
    - [\(Prov. 14:12\) NKJV](#)
- THIS... is the KEY reason the Church needs Holy Spirit power!
  - Because without HIM people have no place to turn.

BUT...OUR MODERN WORLD SEDUCES BELIEVERS...

- By psychologizing the faith...
  - With a source that lacks the Spirit of God...

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- By uses titles... that adds the word “*Christian*”...
  - (To... psychologist / therapist / counselor / etc.)

ALL OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY (1879 AD)...

- Is rooted in *humanism*... Meaning... man is basically good & evolving.

THIS IS WHY...

- Many of the remedies focus on...
  - Self-esteem / self-worth / self-respect...
    - Self-discovery / self-enabling / self-reformation.

**IT'S MAN FIRST!**

But here's what Jesus said ([Matt. 12:38-45](#)) NLT

- Self-reformation leads to a worse condition!
  - Because there's a refusal to repent ([v.41](#))...
    - And a refusal to listen to God's wisdom ([v.42](#)).

YOU CAN DISCERN...

- That the Spirit is absent... because all the talk...
  - Never brings lasting change!
    - It only results in another appointment.

CAN I GIVE YOU GOSPEL TRUTH?

- ([John 8:36](#)) NLT

**IDEA #3 – DIFFICULTY DISARMED:** ([vv.17-22](#))

ONCE THE PEOPLE IN EPHESUS...

- Heard about the power of Christ...
  - They willingly got rid of those things...
    - That keep them anchored to the past!

AS CHRISTIANS...

- We live in a fallen world that rejects God & His ways.
  - BUT we're NOT of this world!

SO...

- We live with a different standard.

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**~IN CLOSING~**

MANY OF YOU ARE GROWING...

- In the things of Jesus... and I am so proud of you!

TODAY...

- May the Holy Spirit continue to carve out...
  - Areas of ignorance on your life...
  - So you become strong in the Lord.

AMEN!

**~COMMUNION~**