

Spiritual Battle

Acts 19:11-20, Ephesians 6:10-20

Based on the NLT

Acts 19:11-12

When Paul was in Ephesus... God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.

Acts 19:13-16

A group of Jews (*God's special people*) was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the *Master Jesus* in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" Seven sons of...a leading priest, were doing this. But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

Acts 19:17-20

The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews (*God's special people*) and Greeks (*non-Jews*) alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the *Master Jesus* was greatly honored. Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. So the message about *Jesus* spread widely and had a powerful effect.

Ephesians 6:10, 12-13, 17 (in part)

Later, when Paul wrote the Ephesians, he reminded them to be strong in the Lord (God) and in his mighty power. He said, "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor---his spiritual armor---so you will be able to resist the enemy and his strategies in the time of evil. Your weapon is the sword of God's Spirit---God's very word. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Ephesians 6:20

...pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for *Jesus*, as I should."