

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #18 -Confirming the Word

Scripture Reading: Acts 19:1-6

Introduction:

1. God never expects His people to accept anything by blind faith. He confirms His word unto us.
2. We have great faith in the word of God through the confirmation of reason and miracles.

I. THE WORD PROCLAIMED -vs. 1-10

A. THE RIGHT BAPTISM -vs. 1-6

1. They had been baptized into John's baptism
 - a. John baptized to repentance
 - b. John also pointed to Jesus; that man should trust in Him.
2. They were obedient and received the Holy Spirit as a result.

B. THE GOSPEL PREVAILS -vs. 7-10

1. For three months they boldly reasoned in the synagogue concerning the kingdom of God.
2. Some were hardened and spoke against the Way (the church)
3. Paul departed with the disciples and reasoned in the school of Tyrannus
 - a. Paul had to do this earlier -Ac 18:6, 7
 - b. Nothing is known for certain concerning the school of Tyrannus.
4. Over the next two years all in Asia heard the word of God, both Jews and Greeks

II. THE WORD CONFIRMED -vs. 11-20

A. UNUSUAL MIRACLES PERFORMED -vs. 11, 12

1. Paul did not have to be present for miracles to occur
 - a. The Lord was working through him
 - b. Handkerchiefs or aprons that were on Paul were used to heal and cast out demons.
2. Unusual miracles were seen earlier
 - a. Life of Jesus -Mk 6:56
 - b. Ministry of Peter -Ac 5:15

B. FAILED ATTEMPT TO CAST OUT EVIL SPIRITS -vs. 13-16

1. The Jewish exorcists
 - a. They were itinerant (i.e. vagabonds)
 - b. They tried to display power over demons (others tried to show power in these days)
 - i. E.g. Simon the sorcerer -Ac 8:9-ff
 - ii. E.g. Elymas the sorcerer -Ac 13:8
2. The power of God is greater
 - a. They were unsuccessful at casting out the evil spirits
 - b. They were striped, beaten, and humiliated

C. RESULTS SEEN IN THE PEOPLE

1. They were convinced the apostles were teaching truth
 - a. Not just anyone could cast out evil spirits -Ref Mk 16:17, 18
 - i. The power to cast out demons was promised to the early Christians. They obeyed the gospel and received the Holy Spirit

- ii. These pretenders were not disciples of Jesus.
 - b. This resulted in a healthy fear or respect for Jesus.
- 2. Many who practiced magic repented of their ways
 - a. They came together and burned their books.
 - b. The books were valued at fifty-thousand pieces of silver (\$25,000.00 of our money)

Conclusion:

- 1. Nothing in this world compares to the salvation we have found in Jesus
- 2. Remember the words of Paul -Ph 3:7, 8
- 3. Today: we have heard the words of Jesus and we know nothing in life compares to Him.
- 4. The question is, “Are there obstacles blocking our path from walking with Christ as we ought?”