



# The Real and the Counterfeit

Acts 19:11-22

## **Acts 19:11-22**

**God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.**

## **Acts 19:11-22, cont.**

**One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.**

## **Acts 19:11-22, cont.**

**Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.**

## **Acts 19:11-22, cont.**

**After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.” He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.**

# How to Recognize the Counterfeit

- You cannot memorize all the types of counterfeit. There are too many ways to counterfeit anything.
- You will become confused if you do try.
- Become an expert on the real, on the authentic thing.
- “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32).

# **1. God moves in His time and in His way, Acts 19:11-12**

- Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working... Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” (John 5:17-19)**
- God did not use Paul in an extraordinary sense for the first ten years of his Christian life.**
- Ten recorded miracles God did through Paul. Most of them brought persecution to Paul**

# **1. God moves in His time and in His way**

- It takes longer to grow a tree than a pumpkin.**
- Do not be discouraged if God takes a little more time to prepare you for service.**
- The requirement for effective service is a surrendered heart to God, dead to sin and self and ready to serve God for His glory.**



## **Oswald Chambers wrote:**

**To become one with Jesus Christ, a person must be willing not only to give up sin, but also to surrender his whole way of looking at things. Being born again by the Spirit of God means that we must first be willing to let go before we can grasp something else. The first thing we must surrender is all of our pretense or deceit (Schein und Trug). What our Lord wants us to present to Him is not our goodness, honesty, or our efforts to do better, but real solid sin. Actually, that is all He can take from us.**

## Oswald Chambers, cont.

And what He gives us in exchange for our sin is real solid righteousness. But we must surrender all pretense that we are anything, and give up all our claims of even being worthy of God's consideration. Once we have done that, the Spirit of God will show us what we need to surrender next. Along each step of this process, we will have to give up our claims to our rights to ourselves. Are we willing to surrender our grasp on all that we possess, our desires, and everything else in our lives? Are we ready to be identified with the death of Jesus Christ?

## **2. Counterfeiting the work of God is an old trick of the devil, Acts 19:13-17**

- **Pharaoh's magicians, the Witch of Endor**
- **Traits of the Counterfeit:**
  - **Emphasis on the ritual, not faith in God**
  - **Emphasis on the "prophet," not the Word**
  - **Emphasis on human desire, not God's will**
  - **Neglect of God, of truth, and of true heart change**

## **2 Peter 2:9-11**

**“...the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.”**

# Outward or Inward

- To be current and relevant and up-to-date is good.
- To merely outwardly copy the styles of others is meaningless. (Sceva's Sons)
- There is no replacement for the Spirit of God at work in and through us by the Truth of God.
- There is no replacement for a servant with a surrendered heart, "Not I, but Christ."
- "The name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor" (Acts 19:17).

# **3. The evidences of God's work, Acts 19:18-22**

- **Christ is exalted – people come to faith**
- **True Heartfelt Repentance**
- **Cut ties (burn sorcery books) with the world**
- **Hunger for the word of God: “The word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power” (Acts 19:20).**
- **An openness and surrender to the Spirit of God**

# The Church in the Spirit

- The voice of the Spirit is known: “Compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem” (Acts 20:22).
- The leadership of the Spirit is embraced: “Those who are led by the Spirit are sons of God” (Rom. 8:14).
- The transformation of the Spirit is happening: “The fruit of the Spirit...” (Gal 5:22-23)
- The unity of the Spirit is experienced (Acts 19:22): Paul sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia, and they did not argue with him. There was among them confidence in God and in one another.