



PASSIONFORTRUTH

WHERE NEW LIFE BEGINS

Understanding Acts Chapter 19 - Part 11 - Jim Staley 2024

The answer to every single one of your problems is in this week's broadcast, chapter 19 of the Book of Acts. As we've been going through it, there's a secret weapon, and I'm telling you, the disciples used it. They didn't abuse it, and everything they did revolved around it. Stay tuned. We're going to talk about it right after this.

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Hello, everyone, and welcome back. I'm Jim Staley with Passion for Truth Ministries. Welcome to today's broadcast, where we're going to be diving into the Christian roots of our faith as we continue through the Book of Acts. We've come to chapter 19, and it's slow, but it's sure. We are trying our best—absolutely trying our best—to dive into the original culture, understand the language, the backdrop, the people groups, all the debates of the day. All of that, all the nuances, make all the difference in the world to what kind of interpretation we're going to get.

If you're subscribed to this channel, thank you so much, and make sure you turn on your notifications. If you're not, please [subscribe](#) right now, and that way, you can be abreast of everything we do here at Passion for Truth. We are all about doing Bible things in Bible ways, calling things by Bible names, going back *past* Protestantism of the last 500 years, *past* Martin Luther in 1517 with his theses, *past* Catholicism, and all the way even past the early church fathers, to get back to the original roots of our faith.

And, well, folks, the truth is, they all come from a Hebraic background. So all of these authors are Jewish, and if we don't know anything about Judaism of the first century, we're just not going to get it right. It's just going to be very difficult for us. And that's why this ministry exists—to teach you the original culture so that we can know what the Bible says and apply it. If we apply what we *think* it means and it's wrong, well, then we kind of fall into that space where we're not worshiping in spirit and in truth. That's what we want to do—we want to worship in spirit and truth.

Will you join me today? Let's go over to **Acts chapter 19**, and let's just walk through it, see what happens. All right? And let's let the Scriptures speak for themselves. All right, here we go. *"**And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus.**"* Now he's been going through all these different cities, and his strategy and custom was to go into the synagogues first and give the gospel and talk to them for weeks on end, until, quite frankly, people got saved, and then the rabbis got upset. The leadership got jealous, which is what we talked about last time, and they would kick him out. He would go to the next city. His life would get threatened. He would give the gospel, and he would leave. The pattern just repeated, one after another. Now he finds himself in Ephesus, *"**and finding some disciples,**"* ² ***he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' So they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.'**"* ³ ***And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'Into John's baptism.'**"* ⁴ ***Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus—Yeshua.'**"* ⁵ ***When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of Yeshua.**"* ⁶ ***And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with other tongues and prophesied.**"* ⁷ ***Now the men were about twelve in all."***

All right, so let's talk about this for just a second, because this is really the epitome of my ministry here at Passion for Truth. All the employees that work here, from around the globe, and in the United States, our heartbeat is for you to get the spirit and the truth. It's not enough to have the Holy Spirit. It's not enough just to have the truth; **you must have the Spirit and the truth**. Paul knows this. On his journey, he's coming across Ephesus. He's already been there. There's a church that's begun, and there are 12 people that he finds who are disciples. In the process of discipling them, he discovers that they've never heard of the Holy Spirit. So he says, "Well, wait a minute. What baptism have you been baptized in?" And they say, "The baptism of John."

So let's talk about the baptism of John for a second. What is the difference between the baptism of John and the baptism of Yeshua? Well, John said it best. He said it this way: "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who comes after me is going to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Well, what does that mean, "with the Holy Spirit and with fire"? And what does it mean when John the Baptist was baptizing them, you know, for repentance? What did that look like? Well, as I've stated many times before—but maybe this is your first broadcast—in Judaism of the first century, baptism was not uncommon. It was extremely common. **It was called a mikvah baptism**. It comes from **the Greek word baptismo or bapto**, and it can mean either **"to dip,"** as in one case of a Greek word, and in the second Greek word, it means **"to pickle,"** which I really like because that's what we need.

Most Christians are just dipped, right? They get saved, they're dipped, but their lives don't transform. So, if you just take a cucumber and stick it in a pickle jar for two seconds and pull it out, it's still a cucumber, and when you break it open, the insides are exactly the same. But if

you take a cucumber and you put it in the proper liquid—the pickling liquid—and it sits in there, **it eventually goes through that hard skin and transforms the inside.**

I remember when I was a little kid, and I found out that pickles were made from cucumbers. I just couldn't believe it. Like, how in the world can a pickle be a cucumber? They're not even remotely the same texture, the same taste, or anything. It's because they're completely transformed by the vinegar, which, by the way, is like the water of the Word. It's vinegar. You know, it sometimes burns, sometimes it doesn't taste really good—it's a little sour on the mouth—but it transforms when you stay in it.

So, some of you struggle. I work with new believers quite frequently, and someone will get saved, and they'll come back a couple months later, and they're like, "Man, I'm just not sure, like what's going on." It's because they're not pickled enough. The inside has not changed enough from the water of the Word. If you're struggling right now in an area of your life, like with some sort of vice or bad habit, I can promise you that bad habit goes away when you pickle it in the Word of God. When you *immerse* yourself to the place where your flesh drowns, that's the whole point of baptism. You go under the water; it represents death—literally, because if you stay in the water long enough, you will die. And that's the symbolism of it. You go under the water, there's death. You come out of the water, you're completely transformed. You're no longer a cucumber, if you will; you've been pickled by God.

So, baptism by John was an interesting thing that came along in the first century because they had immersion baths for all kinds of things, but they did not have anything for being immersed for your sins. There were ritual baths for this and that, for clean and unclean, but they didn't have it for sins. John came along with this incredibly novel idea, and it blew people away. By the hundreds, they were going out to John to be baptized for the remission of their sins, the guilt, the shame that they felt.

He said, "Look, I'm baptizing you and trying to just prepare the way of the Lord. The preparation for Yeshua, for the Lord Jesus Himself, *is* recognizing that you're a sinner." That's it. That's why, when I lead somebody to Christ, the basic Romans Road is: I'm a sinner. For all men have fallen short of the glory of God—they're all sinners. And the wages of that sin (**Romans 6:23**) is death. So until we recognize our sin, that's all that John's baptism was—showing people you're in sin. You need a Savior. You need to be *dead* to your sin.

But the solution, he said, was going to be the one that comes after him, Yeshua, the Messiah. Yeshua HaMashiach was going to come, and *He's going to baptize you in water, fire, and the Holy Spirit*. They didn't understand really what that meant until it happened in **Acts chapter 2**, on the day of Shavuot, what we call in Greek, Pentecost. They're all in the upper room, and the Holy Spirit comes down on the same day that they were receiving the commandments, 1400-some-odd years earlier, on Mount Sinai. Moses is receiving the commandments, and the people are experiencing the power of God, the truth.

1400-some-odd years later, on this day, they're receiving the Spirit, and the Spirit comes down in the form of flames over the top of their heads, totally redoing what happened in the wilderness. There, you had the tabernacle with the pillar of fire over the Holy of Holies that designated, "This is the presence of God." So when the flame of fire was over the top of their heads, it was designating, "This is the new temple of God. *This* is the presence of God. This is where the Spirit of God is going to dwell." The Spirit was infused into the individual people for the first time since Adam.

Think about that for a moment. This is a radical, *radical* change in the relationship between God and men. It went from God and man with Adam, to God through a man—the high priest—and then to the people. The people had no access to the Holy Spirit. Outside of the Holy Spirit resting on prophets or individual situations, no one had access to the Spirit. Except for now, because of the High Priest, Yeshua, who went in one time, once and for all, and put His blood on the altar, anyone that goes into the Holy of Holies boldly, as Hebrews says, has access to that same Spirit. It sits between the cherubim wings on the mercy seat, hovering over the Ark of the Covenant.

The truth is in the commandments below Him. The Spirit is between the angels' wings, and *that* is the worshiper that God is looking for—the one that comes into the Holy of Holies, that goes past the outer courts, past the priests who sing His praise, and into the Holy of Holies, as the song says. And that can only happen through the blood of Christ, and *that is the baptism of Yeshua*. When you come into the Holy of Holies, you are never the same. The Spirit of God comes over you, and many people speak in tongues, either immediately or shortly thereafter. I know it took me a little bit, but when God gave me the gift of tongues, it radically changed my life—radically.

And I know that I've spoken in tongues before, and people have heard me in different languages. So it's incredibly real. But the power that God is wanting to infuse into the church is the prophetic power. Without the Holy Spirit, you cannot hear the voice of God. You cannot get words of knowledge, words of wisdom, visions, dreams—all of that comes from the Holy Spirit living on the inside. I certainly cannot imagine living a single day in my life without the Holy Spirit, because it creates a dual pathway. It's not just me throwing up prayers like I did in Catholic school, but I'm actually receiving from God.

When I read the Word, I'm looking for the *rhema* word—the *living Word of God*—not just studying the Word of God. But when I move away from my studies into, "Hey, God, I just need a word from you," He gives me the exact word that I need for the exact situation that I'm going through. It's impossible for me to just flip to that page, and it happens to be exactly what I'm looking for. That's the Holy Spirit communicating.

There are so many ways and so many examples I could give, but the Spirit of God inside of us, that Holy Spirit fire that John the Baptist prophesied in Acts chapter 2—God wants it to happen to you. He wants it to happen to me. He wants every single one of His people to be radically transformed on the inside. He's not interested in religious people who are just trying to figure out

when He's coming back. He's interested in people who are employed by Him, who are actively trying to grow His Kingdom. That's what He's looking for. If He can't find it, He moves to someone else.

That's why He says in **Matthew chapter 7** that when these religious people died, and they stand before God on Judgment Day, and they had raised people from the dead in the name of Christ, they healed people, they cast demons out in the name of Yeshua, and they stand before Him, and they're all excited about getting into heaven, God says, "Depart from me. I have no idea who you are. I never knew you." [\[a\]](#)

Now, of course, God knew who they were, but there was no intimate knowledge, no *epinosis*. There was no *intimate knowledge* of them because they were just using the name of God for their own glory. They had no relationship with God.

At the end of the day, I want to challenge each and every one of you that listen to this broadcast right now: how deep does your *relationship* with God go? Not how much do you know? Not how much are you obeying God? Because you can obey God. I'm telling you, you'll never out-obey a Pharisee. I can promise you that. If you're not tithing on your mint and cumin in your backyard, you're not even close to the obedience of a Pharisee. But God is not looking for obedience only. He wants love, relationship, and that comes through taking time with Him. That comes through prayer, that comes through going into the Holy of Holies and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin, to take you where you need to be, to bring you revelation, understanding, and discernment of how you can change in a moment, and in a matter, and whether you will give Him priority in the most difficult times of your life.

Think of that for just a moment, as we are hardly through chapter 19 at all. But think about this: Do you give priority to God when you're triggered emotionally, when you're upset, when you're angry? What do you do in those moments? Do you allow the Holy Spirit precedence and priority? If you don't, then you are operating in the flesh. It's easy to operate in the Spirit when everything's going great—when the bills are paid, and you get a bonus, and life is good, the sun is out, and your skin is warm. But what about living for God in the most difficult times? That's my challenge. That's what God's challenging me, and I'm challenging you. Where are we?

Are we part of just John's baptism, which is just recognizing that we're a sinner? Or are we part of Yeshua's baptism, where we are baptized *in fire and the Holy Spirit*? In other words, the fire of God burns out your mind, will, and emotions—you can't make the choices anymore. It's what He wants in every situation. You have no ability to point your finger at somebody else and tell them that they're wrong, because the Holy Spirit has burnt that out of you. It's all about you—what can you change? That's the hardest part, in my opinion, of walking out the life of a believer in Christ: making sure we only represent Him and do things and say things that are in His best interest, because it's so easy to bend ourselves towards our own interests. Would you agree?

All right, so they're now baptized in the name of Christ, they're speaking in tongues, and incredible things are happening. And by the way, if you're interested in learning more about the

gift of tongues, I have, I think, three different videos on the [history of tongues](#), [10 Myths About Tongues](#), and everything you ever would want to know about [The Gift of Tongues](#). Hours of teaching. You can click on your screen or click the links in the description later, and it'll take you to them, and you can do your own deep dive study on that. I know that for me, I simply cannot imagine not having the gift of tongues. It has made that much of a difference in my prayer life.

Okay, let's go back to the Scriptures. And it says this in **verse 8**: *"**And he went into the synagogue**"*—of course, this is what he's done every single time—*"**and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.**"*⁹ ***But,***" there's always a "but." If you notice that every time he goes into the synagogue, the next verse is "but." *"**But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.**"*¹⁰ ***And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."***

This is incredible, ladies and gentlemen, that Paul, for the first time, had an opportunity to minister for, first of all, three months straight in the synagogue. And then, when they couldn't take it anymore, he moved over to the school of Tyrannus, which was just a school of someone there in Ephesus. And he spoke for two years. He began to minister, disciple, and spread the word. All of Asia was hearing at that point because of him.

Now, let's talk about "the Way" for just a second. **The Way was a sect of Judaism** in the first century, and the only difference between a regular Jew and the sect of the Way, was that the Way were Jews and early Gentiles that believed in the Torah. They believed in God's law. They followed Judaism pretty much to a T, **except they did not believe in keeping any tradition or doctrine of the rabbis that broke Scripture**. So if it could not be found in Scripture, and it was not a tradition that was a benefit to a believer, if it was directly against the Scripture, or if it was any kind of tradition or rule of the rabbis that was not biblical or was held in contempt in the court of God, they threw that out. And the last thing, of course, and most important, is **they believed that Yeshua was the Messiah**, that Jesus was the Christ.

That was it. So you could not tell the difference between a regular Jew and a Messianic Jew in the first century outside of that—is that the Messianic Jews, or what would later be called Christians, were not called Christians at this point. But they would later be called Christians. They were called "the Way." It was *the sect of the Way*, and that whole "denomination" or sect was wrapped around Christ, following God's commandments, but they would not follow the rabbinical traditions.

And that's what ticked off the rabbis. They were teaching against the traditions of the elders that were *not biblical*, and that was not okay. Try walking into any church today and tell them that they should take their Christmas tree down because you can't find it in Scripture, and see how fast you find the gold handle on the front door. You'll be escorted out quickly by the ushers. So that's exactly how it was in the first century—bucking up against the tradition and doctrine of

men. All through the Scriptures, Paul is arguing. It's never against the commandments of God; it's always against the traditions of the elders.

That's why they were so mad, because they considered the traditions and doctrines of the elders equal with the law of God. So to teach against the traditions of the elders was to teach against the law of God. And that's why, in the next chapter, we're going to find out—in the next chapter or two—that Paul was completely slandered and falsely accused of teaching against the law, and he wasn't, and he went to great lengths to prove it.

All right, let's go back to the Scriptures. **Acts chapter 19, verse 11**, says this: ***"¹¹ Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul."*** Listen to this. Most people would never catch on to this today, or believe in this today, ***"¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons, cloths were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them, and evil spirits went out of them."***

Think about this, ladies and gentlemen. Paul is sending handkerchiefs and other clothing parts of him, from his body to the sick, and they're being healed just by the handkerchief. Can you even imagine today if that happened? What an incredible thing. So this is unusual. It's not usual; it's unusual. But God allowed Paul to utilize the anointing in his life, which was so thick that they would take parts of his clothing, and he would send a handkerchief off to somewhere in a different city, and people were getting healed, and demons were leaving them just from the anointing.

Can you imagine that kind of anointing today? You wouldn't last long because the lines would be thousands of millions of people in line to be healed. But God gave unusual anointing to Paul because He was trying to upstart the early congregation and to get His message out there. Let's go back to the Scriptures. What an incredible anointing that is.

"¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves,"—verse 13, here I'm at—"to call the name of the Lord Jesus over," oh I love this part, "to call the name of the Lord Yeshua over those who had evil spirits, saying, 'We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.'"¹⁴ And there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so." So these are seven sons of priests that are going out, and they're trying to cast out demons in the name of Christ. And it doesn't work out so well for them. Watch this—the evil spirits answer, and they do.

And I have had a demon talk to me more than once through a human being. And it says, the evil spirits in **verse 15** said, ***"¹⁵ Yeshua I know, Paul I know, but who in the world are you?"*** Now, this is really an incredible verse because the demons *know* Yeshua. They *know* Paul, but they don't know who this guy is. In other words, they're not attaching the anointing of Yahweh, God, Creator of heaven and earth, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Those that have the anointing of a child of God, the demons know who they are.

Think about this for a second, guys—the demons don't know anybody else. There's no point to. They are told to attack the ones that are under the banner of Christ, those that are following the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and have the anointing of the Messiah on their lives. Those are the ones that are marked. That's why the Bible says, "Don't think it a strange thing when you face trials of many kinds because of me." Like you are an alien and a stranger in this world—because you are. The demons will mark you. They know who you are.

But here's the great part—they're also afraid of you. And if you know the authority that you have in Christ, all you've got to do is tell them to get out of your way. But look what happens when they don't know you.

Let's go back to the Scriptures. This gets interesting. ¹⁶ ***Then the man who had the evil spirit leaped on them because of the demon, overpowered these seven sons, and prevailed against them, so they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*** Think about this, my friends—this demon wanted to humiliate them and teach them a lesson. You're not going to use the name of Christ, ladies and gentlemen, as some sort of magic wand or magic name. And that's what was going on. These exorcists were going, "Man, they're having so much authority and so much luck and victory over these evil spirits in the name of Jesus. Let's use that. Let's try that," as if it's some sort of magical name.

There's no magic, ladies and gentlemen, no supernatural magic in the name of Jesus. You know why? Because there were so many people named Yeshua in the first century. **Yeshua was just the short version of Yehoshua, which was the word for Joshua.** So if Jesus had a name today and He showed up, I can promise you it wouldn't be Jesus. It would be Joshua. That's what His name would be in English, or Yeshua in Hebrew.

But there's no magical power in that name. It's like there's magic in my name, James or Jim—there's no magic in that. **The power is in the authority of the Father that's behind the name.** This is why, in the first century, they had no last names. It was Yeshua ben Yosef. It was Yeshua, son of Joseph. That's how they introduced themselves. **The authority was not in what you did. The authority was in who you were and who you belonged to.**

That is an incredible sermon in itself. This is why these demons had no idea who these people were—because there was no authority of God in their lives. There was no anointing that they could see that *connected* them as an heir to the throne of Yahweh. So, they're not afraid of them. So this demon jumps on these people and humiliates them, strips them naked. It beats them up, and they come running out of this house. And this was such a powerful thing because these kids—these were kids of the high priest. This was so popular because of who this happened to. This went viral, as we say today, in the first century. And it says in verse 17, ¹⁷ ***This became known to all the Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus.*** And this is a big city, by the way. It was said that 100,000 people got saved in Ephesus alone. They were there two years, and 100,000 people got saved. That's unbelievable—how many people got saved in this city because of these things.

So the demon—watch this—the demon makes them flee out of the house naked and wounded. And this was so big news. Front page, Ephesus: **"fear fell upon them, and the name of Yeshua was magnified."**¹⁸ **And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds."** In other words, they started confessing their own sins because of these crazy things that were happening.

In verse 19, **"¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic,"**—which is why they were doing what they were doing, thinking that Jesus' name was magic, but they practiced magic—**"brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all."** Check this out, my friends. **"And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled 50,000 pieces of silver."** Now, you may not think that's a big deal. 50,000 pieces of silver today would be an insane amount of money. I'll tell you exactly how much it is because we know that a silver denarius—okay, we know what the worth of that is—50,000 silver pieces would be equivalent to \$5.5 million today.

This was not a small bonfire, ladies and gentlemen. This is not just a few people getting saved. This is thousands of people—thousands of people—that are bringing in their books. Their books! These are demonic, occult magic books. These are spells. These are the religious books of thousands of people. I can't even imagine how big of a bonfire this is—five and a half million dollars' worth of books, 50,000 pieces of silver worth of books. This was a revival like no one has ever seen. The entire city was virtually on their side. There were so many people that got saved.

But let's keep going because things are going to change, like they always do. Alright, **"²¹ When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, 'After I've been to Jerusalem, I must also see Rome.'**"²² **So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time."** So he's staying a little bit longer in Ephesus.

"²³ And about that time, there arose a great commotion about The Way." Why? Because there's a great locomotion happening. A great revival is happening. **"²⁴ For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana,"**—a major, major, major goddess, we'll talk about her in just a moment—**"In Ephesus, brought no small profit to the craftsmen."**²⁵ **He called them all together with the workers of similar occupation and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade."**²⁶ **Moreover, you see and hear that not only at Ephesus but throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that these aren't gods which are made with hands."**²⁷ **So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."**

Now look, this is important to point out. This guy is upset because he's losing business. There's less pagans every day that Paul sticks around. That means there are fewer people buying the

idols, fewer people buying all of this pagan material. He's losing his livelihood. So he couches this speech with, "Hey, Diana is going to fall into disrepute, and people are going to stop worshipping her." No, he doesn't give a rip about that at all. He cares about his livelihood.

So he goes and finds other craftsmen and says, "Guys, we're all going to be out of business if Paul keeps going. We need to get them out of dodge." So they create a riot, is what they do. And this is quite interesting. Let's keep going.

"²⁸ Now, when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians!'" Okay, now Diana of the Ephesians, just so you know, she was like the Trinity, if you will. In paganism, she had three different names depending on whether or not she was in her celestial form, or whether or not she was in her human form, or in the form when she was in hell. And she was one of the major goddesses of fertility that they prayed to. So this goddess was the most important goddess in all of Ephesus, in Asia really. Paul is messing with their god and with their tradition.

And I'll tell you right now, when you begin to do Bible things in Bible names and begin to research the Scriptures and find out what we believe is sometimes not exactly what traditional Christianity teaches—because most of traditional Christianity comes right out of Roman Catholic roots—it can cause a problem. And people can get upset for messing with their religion because you're messing with their livelihood, you're messing with their doctrine, you're messing with the traditions of whatever they do—going to Christmas services, Easter services, and celebrating Halloween in the back trunk of a car in the church. How in the world are we doing these things that are not found in the Scriptures? They're found in paganism, and they have no connection to Christ at all. And we will not be celebrating them in the kingdom whatsoever. We will be celebrating the feast days of the Lord, the seven prophetic feast days that are set up to talk about the first coming—they're connected to the first coming and to the second coming of Christ. Those were kicked out, and the pagan traditions were put in. This is exactly what Paul is dealing with in the first century. Okay, if you get what I'm saying, put "I get it" in the comments. Let us know that you're getting what we're putting out there.

Alright, let's go back over to the Scriptures. In **verse 28 and 29**, the people are so upset they go into the theater and seize Gaius and Aristarchus, the Macedonians, who are Paul's travel companions. **"³⁰ And when Paul wanted to go into the people, the disciples wouldn't let him."** They knew this was dangerous, that he would get killed. **"³¹ Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends—Paul's friends—sent to him, pleading that he would not go to the theater. ³² Some therefore cried one thing, some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them didn't even know why they came together."**

Have you ever been in or seen a protest? For instance, there are protests all over the United States right now about Israel. And if you go talk to them—and we have done this, and I've seen people do this and interview people holding the signs, you know, supporting this group or supporting that group—and they'll say, "Why are you here?" They don't even know! Many of them have no clue why they're there. They're just part of a group. The group said, "Hold the

sign. There's somebody threatening what we believe." "What are they threatening?" "I don't know, but we need to hold the sign," right? That's what's going on. There's a great group of people. They think that they're just chanting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" But they have no idea what's going on. They're just a big group of people going into the theater, and they're protesting.

So the city clerk shows up in **verse 35** and convinces the people that, "Look, we all know that we are the temple guardians of the great goddess Diana and the image that fell down from Zeus." Now, by the way, most historians and extra-biblical books say that nothing ever fell down from the sky, that there was someone who created an object, and because it was there, the carved image for decades, people had no idea where it came from. They had forgotten that it was created, and there was just a rumor that it fell from the heavens, from Zeus, and this was the gateway of the goddess Diana. So it's amazing how religious tradition can create things out of thin air with absolutely no evidence at all.

That's one of the reasons why I'm a believer in Christ, and why I believe in the Scriptures, because it's not tradition. It's actually built out of science. It comes right out of archaeology, and it can be proven through actual documents that were passed down to us over time.

Did you know that, by the way, there are more copies of the New Testament, more fragments of the New Testament, than there are of *Homer's Iliad*? *Homer's Iliad and the Odyssey*—no one doubts the veracity or the truthfulness or the accuracy of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Yet we have thousands more copies of the New Testament than *Homer's Iliad* and *Odyssey*. His book has far fewer extant copies than we do of the New Testament. It's very fascinating.

All right, there we go. ³⁸ **Therefore,** he says, **"If Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open, and the proconsuls are open. Let them bring a court."** But if you keep this up, he warns everybody, "You keep this up in the theater, then you're going to be held accountable for whatever happens. You will get in trouble." And he says, ⁴¹ **When he says this,** in **verse 41**, **"these things he dismissed the assembly."**

Every single place that Paul goes, he is first going into the synagogue, and he's reasoning with men. He's showing them the scriptures. Then he shows the power of God through laying on of hands, healings, miracles, signs, wonders—things that people can't deny. That's why he says, "I didn't come to you with persuasive speech only. I came with the demonstration of the power of God," and that happens inside of the Spirit of God.

As we close out this broadcast, I just want to challenge each and every one of you that's out there: what is your level of knowledge of the Scriptures, and what's your level of knowledge of the Holy Spirit? Because they're two completely different things. This is why Paul says, "What baptism were you in? Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?" How much do you know of God, and how much do you *know* God?

And that's what this week's broadcast really is all about. Yes, it's couched in the historical backdrop of Paul going to Ephesus and Asia, giving the gospel, and staying there for years, but it's all really right here in the very beginning of the opening chapter—is it's talking about the power of the Holy Spirit. Do you have the Holy Spirit in your life? If you are pausing right now and you're not sure, then you probably don't have the Holy Spirit. You may know God from an intellectual perspective. You may believe that Yeshua is the Messiah, that Jesus is the Christ, but do you have the demonstrable power of the Holy Spirit operating in your life?

Do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? Do you lay hands on people? Are they healed? Does God give you visions and dreams? Does He speak to you prophetically? These are all signs that the Holy Spirit is operating in your life. When you open up the Word, does He speak to you through the Word outside of study time? Is there a time where almost tears well up in your eyes because He gave you a private word? That's the private relationship that God is looking to have with each and every one of us, where the Holy Spirit—Paul says—the spirit man increases, the flesh man decreases.

You may not hear the Holy Spirit or be directed by the Holy Spirit because maybe there's more flesh in your life than you think. I would encourage you today to ask the Father to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, to increase the spirit inside of your life, so that the mind, will, and emotions of God will take precedence over your own mind, will, and emotions.

So, I'd like to end this broadcast in an unusual way. I'd like to pray over every single person that's watching this video and ask God to send His Spirit and infuse it into your life. So, Father, I just, by faith, lay hands on everybody that's watching this broadcast that truly desires to be infused, touched by Your Holy Spirit, Your Ruach, Your wind. God, I ask that Your Spirit would fall upon them—those that truly, *truly* desire to be touched by You. I pray that You would touch them. I pray, God, there'll be people in the sound of my voice that will immediately start speaking in other tongues and be filled with the power of Your love. God, for those that are going through a very difficult time right now, I pray that You'd fill them with Your Spirit, a spirit of hope, and a strategy through Your scriptures to love, to trust You, and to cast their cares and burdens upon You in every case and in every situation. I pray that Your Holy Spirit would take precedence in our lives, so that more of You can shine through us, and less of us will show up. God, when it matters, we pray that You would be given glory in the name of Your Son.

Well, thank you guys for joining me in today's broadcast. I pray that it blessed you. If it did, would you please share this video? Would you please like, hit "like," comment below what you think? And if this message really blessed you, would you consider [partnering with us](#)? Go to [passionfortruth.com](#)—even just \$5, \$10 makes a huge difference when collectively people come together and partner with us so that we can reach the world with this message.

Thank you, guys, for not being just a hearer, but being a doer. We love you guys. Please pray for us during this time. We have so many things on our plate as we're trying to serve you. We have a brand-new app that we're about to unload, and we're so excited about bringing that to you soon. But in the meantime, I appreciate you guys. Thank you, guys, for letting me serve you

the Word of God. I'm Jim Staley with Passion for Truth Ministries, and I'll see you in the next video.

Passion For Truth Ministries

P.O. Box 365 ❖ 5323 Highway N

Cottleville, MO 63338-9998

Email: info@passionfortruth.com

❖ www.passionfortruth.com ❖