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Unstoppable: The Book of Acts
Authenticity or Activity

4 Corners Church
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Acts 19 challenges people who talk about Jesus but don't actually belong to Jesus.

Acts 19:1-10 *¹ And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.*

⁸ And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

1. Right Doctrine Matters

Paul meets disciples who had received John's baptism—repentance without the fullness of Christ.

- Paul explains Jesus fully: crucified, risen, reigning.
- They are baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Repentance without resurrection power produces good people, not bold witnesses.
- Right theology fuels real experiences.
- The Holy Spirit is not an add-on. He's the engine of change and power.

Acts 19:11-20 *¹¹ And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their*

diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all^[d] of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. ¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. ¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

2. Authority Comes from Relationship, Not Vocabulary

- Demons do not fear Christian phrases.
- They fear Christ-filled people

3. The Holy Spirit Produces Fear of God, Not Self-Promotion.

- This was not private repentance—it was costly obedience.
- True revival always costs something.

4. Authentic Faith Trumps Religious Activity

- The sons of Sceva were active—but not authentic.
- Jesus does not outsource His authority: You either abide in Him, or you don't.

5. The Holy Spirit Is Not an Add-On

- Acts 19 shatters the idea that the Spirit is optional. The Spirit:
- Christianity without the Spirit becomes moralism or performance.

6. True Encounters Produces Radical Repentance

- They burned spell books, sources of income, tools of identity
- They didn't just stop doing evil—they destroyed access to it.
- Question for today: What would repentance cost you?

If you've been near Jesus but not surrendered—repent.

If you've known religion but not power—ask for a fresh filling of the Spirit.

If you've kept hidden idols—burn them.

"So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily." (Acts 19:20)

That's what happens when real Jesus meets real repentance through real power.