

Acts: Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey // S3E3 Power and Authority
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Acts 19:13-20 (NIV 1984)

13 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 Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."**14 Seven sons of Sceva**, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. **15** [One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" **16** 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. **17** 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. **18** Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. **19** 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. **20** In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and **grew in power**.

Satan only understands power and authority and is therefore only vanquished through those means.

The word "**Power**" is in some form 335 times in the bible (200OT/135NT) and it is used in some form in 21 of the 27 books of the New Testament.

Acts 19:20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and **grew in power**.

Greek: KRATOS κράτος: Force, Strength, Dominion. Territorial Power

Dunamis-physical power, force, might, ability, efficacy, energy, meaning (b) plur: powerful deeds, deeds showing (physical) power, marvelous works.

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Power accomplished through God.

Main Points:

- 1. The world is governed through spiritual power and authority.**
- 2. Believers who understand and walk in God's power and authority will take dominion, those who do not will become subjects.**

1. The world is governed through spiritual power and authority.

- a. Vs 13** 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 Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."
- **The universe is in spiritual conflict.**
 - **Evil spirits exist:** 1 Corinthians 10:4 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
 - **Spirits are territorial:** Some Jews who went around **driving out evil spirits**

2. Believers who understand and walk in God's power and authority will take dominion, those who do not will become subjects.

- a. 14** Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. **15** [One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"
 - i. Believers who walk in power and authority understand their identity in Christ.**
 - 1. Ephesians 1:18-21** pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

How do we leverage God's power and authority?

- 1. Knowing God's word**
- 2. Living righteously**
- 3. Prayer**
- 4. Seeking Unity**

Questions for small groups:

1. Few Christ-followers understand their power in Christ Jesus. What power did Paul seem to have in the passage above and why did he have that power?
2. Why do you think the son's of Sceva did not also have Paul's ability to drive the demons out.
3. What authority and power do followers of Christ have access to and how do they employ it?
4. Do you feel that you walk in God's power? Why or why not?
5. Put the above verse Ephesians 1:18-21 into your own words. What is it actually saying?