

Beautiful Surrender (Acts 19)

What is powerful enough to cause us to walk away from what once defined us? To give up what brought comfort, success or control? Acts 19 is the story of individuals caught up in magical, spiritual, sexual and cultural powers, who come face to face with the power of Jesus. Between unavoidable conflict and fierce protest is a beautiful surrender to the transforming power of the Spirit. The revival that unfolds is what we're praying for in the city of St. Pete.

1. Unavoidable conflict (Acts 19:1-16)

2. Beautiful surrender (Acts 19:17-20)

3. Fierce protest (Acts 19:21-41)

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Acts 19:1-10. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in the life of a follower of Jesus, bringing power to witness and power to live the Christian life. Where have you experienced this power? Can you share a recent example?
2. Read Acts 19:11-20. Describe the extraordinary miracles happening in Ephesus. What did those miracles demonstrate to the Ephesians?
3. What impact did the humiliation of the exorcists have on the Ephesians? Acts 19:17-20
4. Why was there a willingness to walk away from what once defined them - to give up what brought security, power and control (even pleasure)? What did the Ephesians do to show this willingness?
5. Can you share examples of "powers" you have given up to follow Jesus? Did it happen all at once? Was there ever a struggle to return to those powers?
6. Is there something in your life you need to get rid of? Is there something you're hanging onto - but you know it's inconsistent with following Jesus? Make a clean break with it today. Renounce it altogether – confess it to the Lord and bring it out into the open by sharing it with a trusted friend.
7. Why do the silversmiths see Paul and his message as a threat? What do they do in protest and what does it reveal? Does the gospel message present a similar threat today? If so, how?
8. When we ask God for "true revival," what are we expecting? What often comes with revival?

Pray for the willingness to give up anything holding you back or dividing your allegiance to Jesus. Pray that the power of God will be evident in your life as a natural result of beautiful surrender to Jesus. And pray for revival in St. Pete. Allow what happened in Acts 19:17-20 to inform your prayers.