

# Apostolic Ministry Acts 19:1-20

Ministry life and gospel life can be full of rewards, challenges, wrestling, exposing of false doctrine and false practice, but also of seeing the power of God at work, resulting in growth & the spreading of the gospel.

## The Example of Paul in Acts 19

### ➔ SETTING FOUNDATIONS IN ORDER

#### First check foundations:

- **v.1** – Paul came to Ephesus, found some disciples – these ones had been taught, but only had part of the truth.
- **v.2** – Paul asked them, **“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”**
- these disciples answered, **“We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”**
- (Earlier in **Acts 16:6** – Paul was forbidden to preach the word in Asia –

Ephesus. But now some years later Paul is in Asia, Ephesus, to share the gospel)

- **Paul found some disciples** that were not ‘Christian’ disciples
- They had **not received nor heard of the Holy Spirit**
- **v.3** – Paul is surprised and asks them **“Into what then were you baptised?”**
- they answered **“into John’s baptism”** – today this is like a denominational baptism.

#### Repentance and Faith

- **v.4** - Paul shared that they were to **believe in Jesus Christ** – they needed to ‘change their mind’ and believe in Jesus.

#### Re-Baptism

- **v.5** – **“When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus”.**
- the apostolic minister is bringing a vital correction to these disciples’ foundations.
- **Baptism is into Christ (Rom.6.3a), becoming a member of His body (1 Cor.12:13a)**
- Any other ‘baptism’ is not according to the Word of God.

- what happened was a ‘re-baptism’ or the **real baptism now based upon real faith in Jesus the Messiah**

#### Receive the Holy Spirit

- **v.6** – after baptism Paul **“laid hands on them”**, they were **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **“spoke with tongues and prophesied”**.
  - The Holy Spirit is imparted through the laying on of hands.
    - These disciples had now had the first four foundations (**Hebrews 6:1-2**) properly laid in their lives.
- \* Repentance, \* Faith, \* Baptism, \* Laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit.**

**Verse 7** tells us that there were about **“twelve disciples”** – the foundational number for the church to be established in Ephesus.

### ➔ TEACHING THE WORD

#### Teaching about the Kingdom of God

- **v.8** - Paul went into the Synagogue [the religious church of the day] and spoke boldly for three months about **“the kingdom of God”**.
- **v.9** – he faced opposition from the religious leaders! Being a good disciple can cause problems in the ‘church’ and bring division.

## → DISCIPLESHIP

### Reasoning daily

- **v.9** – when problems arose, **Paul withdrew the disciples** and opened a discipleship school in the School of Tyrannus, where they could meet daily.
- The disciples continued with Paul!
- Paul was ‘**reasoning daily**’ in the School of Tyrannus; and was able to meet in the houses during the evening [see **Acts 20:20**].

### The result of discipleship

- **v.10** – the result of the discipleship school was that **the whole region of Asia** (a province of the Roman Empire of which Ephesus was capital) “**heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks**”.
- Paul remained in Ephesus while the **disciples were going out to take the word around the province**, going out, and coming back for further training.

### 2 Timothy 2:2 in action

- Timothy could have been one of the disciples in the School of Tyrannus.
- We are **to pass on that which we have received** to faithful ones who will in turn be able to “**teach others also**”.

## → MINISTERING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### The power of the Holy Spirit was manifest

- **v.11-12** – there is tremendous evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit at work!
- even handkerchiefs that were prayed over brought **healing** and **deliverance** from evil spirits.
- revival is attested to by ‘**unusual miracles**’, unusual works of power

### False practice exposed

- **v.13-14** - there were a category of people called ‘exorcists’ who used demonic power to cast out demons.
- they saw what Paul did and tried to do the same – “**in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches**”.
- they were not born again, they did not know Jesus, they did not know His power and authority.
- **we all need to personally come to know our authority in Jesus.**
- **v.15-16** – the demon said, “**Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?**” The man in whom the demon was “**prevailed against them**”.
- you cannot copy others; **you need to know Jesus and His authority for yourself.**

## → REVIVAL HAPPENS

### The name of Jesus is magnified

- **v.17** – then **fear came upon everyone** and “**the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified**”
- [if you know the Lord Jesus Christ you have authority to trample on serpents and scorpions – **Luke 10:19**]

### Repentance from evil practice

- **v.19** - those who practiced magic came and burnt their books, charms and objects (all their occult items – fetishes, idols etc)
- these things were worth a lot of money
- **this is revival happening!**

### The word of the Lord spread

- **v.20** – “**So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed**”.
- This was the result of the apostolic ministry – **the word of the Lord spread everywhere.**

### THE PATTERN OF THE SCHOOL OF TYRANNUS

- The apostle teaching daily
- Disciples going out into the regions
- Coming back for further training
- All the province/regions hear the word of the Lord!