

# A Winning People Produce A Winning Church, & Community



**Fear**LESS



# Acts 19:11–20 (NKJV)

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,

12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”

16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# We All Want To Be Winning

- What a victorious ministry!
- It appears that everybody knew what Paul was saying and doing!
- Even Paul's enemies had to admit that the Word was spreading and people were being saved (*Acts 19:26*).
- Two factors made this possible: the witness of the believers as they went from place to place, and the “special miracles” that God enabled Paul to perform in Ephesus (*Acts 19:11*)



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# They Were Winning Through Miracles

## **Acts 19:11–12** (NKJV)

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,

12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# When Our Lord Performed Miracles, He Usually Had At Least Three Purposes In Mind:

- (1) to show His compassion and meet human needs;
- (2) to teach a spiritual truth;
- and (3) to present His credentials as the Messiah.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# The Apostles Followed This Same Pattern In Their Miracles.

In fact, the ability to do miracles was one of the proofs of apostolic authority.

## **Mark 16:20** (NKJV)

And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community



# The Apostles Followed This Same Pattern In Their Miracles

## Romans 15:18–19 (NKJV)

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—

19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# The Apostles Followed This Same Pattern In Their Miracles

## 2 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV)

Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# The Apostles Followed This Same Pattern In Their Miracles

## Hebrews 2:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# The Apostles Followed This Same Pattern In Their Miracles

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Miracles Of Themselves Do Not Save Lost Sinners

## Luke 16:27–31 (NKJV)

27 “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house,  
28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Miracles Of Themselves Do Not Save Lost Sinners

29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' ”



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Miracles Of Themselves Do Not Save Lost Sinners

## John 2:23–25 (NKJV)

23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did.

24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,

25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

Miracles must be tied to the message of the



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Miracles Of Themselves Do Not Save Lost Sinners

Miracles must be tied to the message of the Word of God.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community



# Ephesus Was A Center For The Occult

God enabled Paul to perform “special miracles” because Ephesus was a center for the occult  
*(Acts 19:18–19).*



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# Ephesus Was A Center For The Occult

## Acts 19:18–19 (NKJV)

18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

19 Also, many of those who had **practiced magic** brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Ephesus Was A Center For The Occult

- **Magic - 4021.** περίεργος periergos; It was also a standard term for black arts or magic (Acts 19:19). It pointed to the lengthy and various rituals involved in incantation ceremonies and the fastidiousness with which they were performed.
- oc·cult -supernatural, mystical, or magical beliefs, practices, or phenomena.
- "a secret society to study experimentation and the occult"



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Satan Has Counterfeits

## Acts 19:13 (NKJV)

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

- Satan imitates whatever God’s people are doing, because he knows that the unsaved world cannot tell the difference.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# Satan Has Counterfeits

## 2 Corinthians 11:13–15 (NKJV)

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Satan Has Counterfeits

- Paul was demonstrating God's power right in Satan's territory. But keep in mind that wherever God's people minister the truth, Satan sends a counterfeit to oppose the work.
- **Peter experienced it in Samaria.**



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Satan Has Counterfeits

## **Acts 8:9** (NKJV)

But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# Satan Has Counterfeits

- Jesus taught this truth in His Parable of the Tares.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**



# Satan Has Counterfeits

## Matthew 13:24–30 (NKJV)

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying:  
“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed  
good seed in his field;

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and  
sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a  
crop, then the tares also appeared.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Satan Has Counterfeits

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’

28 He said to them, ‘**An enemy has done this.**’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Satan Has Counterfeits

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 **Let both grow together until the harvest,** and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

## Acts 19:14-16 (NKJV)

14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”

16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

- It was not unusual for Jewish priests to seek to cast out demons (*Luke 11:19*), but it was unusual for them to use the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Luke 11:19** (NKJV)

And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

- Since these men had no personal relationship with the Saviour, they had to invoke the name of Paul as well; but their scheme did not work.
- The demon said, “Jesus I recognize, and Paul I am acquainted with; but who are you?” *(literal translation)*  
The demonized man then attacked the seven priests and drove them from the house.
- No relationship with Jesus means no power to drive out demons!



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

## Acts 19:15–16 (NKJV)

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”

16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

- Whoever these would-be exorcists were, their attempt to invoke Jesus' name failed.
- **It is interesting that the targeted demon, not Paul, was responsible for their undoing. Luke must have enjoyed writing this episode. It is filled with humor. Upon their rejection, the demon responded: “Jesus I know [ginōskō], and Paul I respect [epistamai], but who are you?”**



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community



# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

- As so often with the exorcisms performed by Jesus, the demon confessed Jesus and even acknowledged that the power of Jesus worked through Paul.
- He was, however, not about to yield any turf to these seven.
- They had no power over him what-so-ever.
- He turned on them with a vengeance, overpowered them, and sent them running naked from the house.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

- Two lessons emerge from the story.
- For one, Christianity has nothing to do with magic. The name of Jesus is no magical incantation. The power of Jesus drives out the demonic, and his Spirit only works through those who, like Paul, confess him and are committed to him.
- Second, the demon did confess the power of Jesus over him, “Jesus I know.”



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

**James 2:19** (NKJV)

You believe that there is one God. You do well.  
**Even the demons believe—and tremble!**



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# There Is A Danger In Being A Counterfeit

The people of Ephesus recognized this and extolled the powerful name of Jesus as a result (v. 17).

What was true for them is still true. In the name of Jesus is all the power needed to drive out the demonic forces in every age.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# Acts 19:17–20 (NKJV)

17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.



**A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community**

# A Winning People Produce A Winning Church, & Community

- The tense of the verbs in Acts 19:18 indicates that the people “kept coming ... kept confessing ... kept showing.”
- These believers apparently had not made a clean break with sin and were still practicing their magic, but the Lord had dealt with them.
- The total value of the magical books and spells that they burned was equivalent to \$35,000!



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community

# A Winning People Produce A Winning Church, & Community

- These people did not count the cost as a loss, but repented and turned from their sins. They won in Christ!
- A winning people produce a winning church, and community.



A Winning People Produce A  
Winning Church, & Community