

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Life of Paul - Part 4 A Powerful Effect

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Introduction

The message of our Lord Jesus Christ has a powerful effect. Not only does it affect the lives of those who hear it, but it also has a powerful effect in the lives of its messengers. In the beginning of Acts 19, we see this working through Paul – as a messenger and Apostl

Read Acts 19:1-20

Discuss

1. Read verse 20. The message about Jesus has a powerful effect in us and through us. How have you personally experienced the powerful effect of the Good News?
2. Read verses 1-7. How does this passage help us understand baptism? What do you think it means when Paul says they had not received the Holy Spirit even after being baptized with John's baptism?
3. Read verses 8-10. What did Paul do, how long did he do it, and what was the result? Considering his life before his encounter with Jesus, what do you think enabled Paul to speak boldly? What would speaking boldly look like for you?
4. Read verses 11-12. Pastor Dale emphasises that just because God can do miracles, it does not necessarily mean He always will do miracles. In what ways can we trust that God will always be faithful, even when He does not perform a miracle?
5. Pastor Dale says, "we should all desire and surrender ourselves to God, which leads to powerful encounters. Don't just desire powerful encounters." How do we reconcile our faith with the idea that sometimes things don't turn out as expected, despite our prayers and earnest desires?

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6. What challenges or hindrances might stand in the way when it comes to bringing God's authority into a situation or circumstance?

Respond

The last part of our reading demonstrates how powerful the message about Jesus is. In the story, many people who have turned away from God repent and came back. As believers, it is now our responsibility to speak of the Good News to those around us. Is there someone in your close or peripheral network right now who might need to hear about Jesus? Perhaps they are your person of peace: they love you, listen to you and serve you. If the Holy Spirit shows you the name of that person, catch that name and pray.