

The Church on Mission

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." Acts 1:8

Good News Baptist Church
AM Message

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ARE YOU USEFUL OR A USER OF GOD?

Acts 19:11-20

Context: Paul has reported to his sending church in Antioch (Acts 18:22) and embarked on his third missionary journey. Paul is at Ephesus (Acts 19:1) and has had an unusually long three months to minister in the synagogue before he was not welcomed there. Paul, then, starts teaching a Bible institute in the building of the School of Tyrannus. God is powerfully working throughout Asia using Paul's ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10, 20). In difficulties, the word of the Lord continues to grow powerfully and prevail in the region.

Authentically transformed servants of God seek to be used of God instead of trying to use God.

Authentically transformed servants seek:

1. For God to use you as a conduit to further affirm the ministry of the Word of God (Acts 19:10-12).
 - *People are starving for something real and life changing to captivate them with hope. Powerful Christians are practicing Christians. Read your Bible. Why? To love God and obey Him. Pray by faith, and share the gospel with passion, explaining how it has changed your life.*
2. To repent of trying to use God like a magic formula to tap His power (Acts 19:13-16; Luke 6:46).
 - A. Imposters see God as a way to make a profit (v. 13).
 - B. Imposters speak with authority about God's power, but they don't know the gospel (v. 13).
 - C. Imposters think they can use God to keep from getting hurt (v. 14-16).
 - *There is no place for superstition in the Christian faith. It is idolatry to assume good luck charms and karma can give anything back to you.*

- *Give godly direction to young people that not all games or groups are innocent. White and black magic are both demonic, and the Bible makes no difference between the two. The Bible condemns all forms of sorcery as demonic, full of all kinds of deceit and trickery (Acts 13:10; 1 Timothy 4:1). Playing with the occult is playing with the Father of Lies, who is on the prowl to devour you (1 Peter 5:8).*

3. To make God the focus of who is great (Acts 19:17; John 3:30).

- *Beware of counterfeits. They love to use Christian names and media (They like to use venues like charismatic channels, Trinity Broadcasting Network, the Hillsong channel, and Christian bookstores). Jesus warned that tares (unbelievers) would be sown among the wheat (true believers; Matthew 13:24-30).*

4. To show your settled faith in Christ with serious repentance (Acts 19:18-20).

A. Confess/divulge your counterfeit hopes and turn away from them (Acts 19:18).

B. Value nothing more than Christ, even publicly renouncing your former beliefs (Acts 19:19).

- *Faith in Christ is liberating. Do you know if you are right with God? You may employ the name Christian, but don't have a relationship with Christ. Turn to Him in faith. Acknowledge you are a sinner and that your sins are offensive to God. Trust that Jesus had to die to take your sins away, that He took your spiritual death penalty, and proved He could forgive you and give you His righteousness by rising from the dead.*
- *For the Christian, living by faith is empowering. Confession and repentance make the radical turn away from unbiblical views and practices. Trash the horoscopes, gambling tips, good luck charms, etc.*