



THE LIFE OF  
**PAUL**

FAMILY DEVOS

# Spirit-Powered

**Scripture:** Acts 19:1-20

**Memory Verse:** John 14:16

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”

## For My Family:

How you ever tried to use a flashlight with no batteries? You could have the nicest flashlight in the world, but without the power source, it can't do anything. The Christian life is like this. We are only able to follow Jesus if we have the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us. (It's important to point out in this analogy that the Holy Spirit is not just a power source, like a battery. He is a living being, the third Person of the Trinity, who gives believers the power to live for the Lord.) In today's story, we will see people who received the Spirit, Paul working by the power of the Spirit, and a group that tried to live without the Spirit.

The first part of our story is in Acts 19:1-7. Paul journeyed to Ephesus and met twelve men who had been baptized by John the Baptist, but had never received the power of the Holy Spirit or heard about Jesus. When Paul heard this, he told them about the Lord and baptized them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit fell on them, they began speaking in different languages miraculously.

In verses 8-12, we see that the Holy Spirit was working powerfully through Paul in Ephesus. For two years, he preached in Ephesus about the Lord, and later on in the chapter we find out that many in that city believed. To accompany his preaching, the Holy Spirit did many miracles through Paul. In fact, the Spirit was working so powerfully through him that the dirty rags he was using when he worked were being used to heal people and cast out evil spirits. It's important to point out, this was not because Paul was so great or powerful. These miracles were happening because the Holy Spirit was working through him.

However, not everyone was working by the power of the Spirit. Verses 13-17 tell us that there were seven brothers who saw that Paul was doing miracles, and they wanted to do miracles too. The problem was, they didn't have the Holy Spirit inside of them. They tried casting out an evil spirit in the name of Jesus and Paul, but because they didn't have real faith in Jesus or the Holy Spirit living inside of them, the spirit beat them up and they ran away. The people of Ephesus took notice. Many of them burned their old magic books as they realized that they needed the Holy Spirit and that no other power was good enough.

We all need our walks with the Lord to be Spirit-powered. Everyone who believes in Jesus has the Holy Spirit living inside of them. The Spirit gives us power to live for the Lord, obey God's commands, and share the Gospel. He leads us, teaches us from God's Word, and shows us right from wrong. When we trust in our own strength, we won't be able to please the Lord, but by the power of the Spirit we can live the Christian life.

## Questions for Young Children:

What happened after Paul baptized the twelve men?

What strange thing were people using to do miracles?

Why was Paul able to do miracles but the seven brothers weren't?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What do you know about the Holy Spirit?

Read John 14:15-17, 25-26; John 15:26-27; and John 16:12-15. How does the Holy Spirit help us live the Christian life according to these verses? Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit doing these things in your life?