



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Power to do the Works of God

SPEAKER Rev Les Wheeldon

THEME Abounding Grace for Good Works

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

THE POWER TO DO THE WORKS OF GOD

As the body of Christ, the church is called to be like Christ. We learn how to do this by observing what happened in the early church. Acts 18-19 shows us the founding of the Church of Ephesus and teaches us 6 powers that have been made available to help shape the church into the image of Christ.

6 POWERS TO DO THE WORKS OF GOD

1. THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

“Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.” (Acts 18:24). Here we see how God moves through His Word to send the Gospel into Ephesus. We see the person of Apollos, a learned man with a thorough knowledge of the scriptures. Although Apollos was only taught a little bit about the Lord, the Holy Spirit was able to move Apollos because the Word was already in his heart. The Bible, the Word of God, is a window into the heart of God and His plans for eternity. As we hide the Word of God in our hearts and pray for the Holy Spirit to fall, the Holy Spirit makes use of the Word in us to empower us to do great things for God.

2. THE POWER OF A FERVENT SPIRIT

“He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he only knew the baptism of John.” (Acts 18:25) Here we see how God used Apollos’ fervent spirit to speak truth boldly into the synagogues of Ephesus. Despite knowing only about the baptism of John, Apollos did not wait until he felt that he knew all there was to know, or until he could answer all questions about Jesus. Instead, he spoke with great fervour and enthusiasm, moving on whatever God had given to him at that time. We, too, should stir up the gift that is within us, and move out with whatever God has blessed us with, not lacking in diligence, but serving others out of our zeal for the Lord.

3. THE POWER OF A HUMBLE HEART

In Acts 18:26, we see the heart of Apollos. Despite speaking boldly in the synagogues, Apollos does not have a prideful and arrogant heart. He does not think that he knows everything there is to know, nor is he unwilling to listen to counsel and teaching. Instead, he humbly listens as Priscilla and Aquila explain to him the way of God more adequately. Just as the fervent spirit is a call to us not to be disheartened and to use whatever little we think we have, the humble heart is a call for us to remember that we will never know all there is to know about God – and that God can use anyone to help us understand Him better. If we keep ourselves humble, God will work to complete our understanding.

4. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” (Acts 19:6). Here we see the importance that Paul places on the Holy Spirit and what happens when lives are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. As we lay the foundation by pursuing the Word; as we prepare the way in our hearts by being passionate and fervent, yet humble and open; and as we prepare our lives by dying to ourselves and crucifying all that is in the flesh, we also prepare the way for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

5. THE POWER OF PRAYER

In Acts 19, we see that when Paul prays, powerful things happen. The Holy Spirit descends, people speak in tongues and prophesy, the sick are cured, and evil spirits are driven out. Prayer is when we enter into the presence of God, in the Most Holy Place. A place where we can enter only because of the blood of Jesus. In that place, in His presence, we pour out our souls to the Lord and pray like never before, and anything we ask for in His name, in accordance to His will, it shall be done. There is power in prayer.

6. THE POWER OF RADICAL REPENTANCE

Finally, in Acts 19:17-20, Jesus led the Greeks and Jews in Ephesus to radical repentance, convicting them to burn and destroy everything that might tempt them back to the realm of darkness. And through their convictions and acts of radical repentance, power was unleashed for the Word of the Lord to be spread widely throughout the region. Likewise, we must forsake sin so that nothing will stand in the way between us and our Lord. We need to reposition ourselves, to shake off all the things of darkness, to repent not only out of the shamefulness of our sins, but also out of the joy of knowing our Lord and Saviour.

CONCLUSION

Acts 18-19 shows us how **God moves through His Word**, through the establishment of the early church in Ephesus. It shows us that a **fervent spirit** leads us to make the most of whatever has been given to us, even as our **humble hearts** keep us open to learning more about our Saviour. It opens us to the power of the Holy Spirit that comes as we seek to die to ourselves daily, emptying ourselves so that we might be **filled with the Holy Spirit**. It reveals to us the **power of prayer** that is promised to us, the privilege of entering into the Most Holy Place, into the presence of God. And it moves us to a place of **radical repentance**, fuelled by our love for our Lord and Saviour.

QUESTIONS

The sermon mentioned six powers that will help us grow to be more like Christ and do the good works that have been prepared for us to do. Which of these powers have you seen at work in your life?

What are some of the 6 powers less visible in your life? Why do you think you aren't seeing more of these working in your life?

What are some of the practical steps you can take to activate one or two of the lesser-seen powers in your life? What can your CG members and leaders do to help you? Practice the power of prayer by praying for one another.