

BIG IDEA:

Our posture is the runway for His power to land.

KEY VERSES:

"¹⁹ A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. ²⁰ In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power."

BACKGROUND:

After a somewhat 'unsuccessful' visit to Athens, we find Paul at the end of his rope to where he needed divine intervention at the end of his 2nd missionary journey in Corinth. After a long time desiring to visit Ephesus as a strategic port city – Paul begins his 3rd missionary journey with newfound fire!

Foundational concept:

You and I cannot experience God's extraordinary power while holding onto our counterfeit control.

"The way of Jesus is radically different. It is the way not of upward mobility but of downward mobility. It is going to the bottom, staying behind the sets and choosing the last place!"

– Henri Nouwen

POSTURE OF POWER #1: _____ (vv.1-5)

"⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." – (vv.4-5)

You & I can only run on our own discipline for so long!

POSTURE OF POWER #2: _____ (vv.6-7)

"⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all."

THE GOAL:

"In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." – verse 20

THE QUESTION:
So, how do we get there?

God beautifully meets these people where they are at and gets them to THIS vision of His power and word flowing through them in verse 20.

HEARING VS. DOING:

James 1:22-25 The Message

²²⁻²⁴ Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. ²⁵ But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

POSTURE OF POWER #3: _____ (vv.11-19)

Reflection Question: What are the things you rely on to fix your problems, soothe your anxieties, or guarantee your future instead of relying on the Holy Spirit?

The beatdown of the Seven Sons of Sceva teaches us:

- 1.) There is a spiritual realm:
- 2.) We can't piggyback off someone else's relationship with God
- 3.) A healthy fear of God leads to confession

So What?: We cannot manufacture God's power with our own grit.

Now What?:

- **If you are feeling stuck:** What specific "muck" or modern scroll do I need to surrender this week?
- **If you are exploring faith:** Am I ready to stop trying to fix everything on my own and invite God in?

Let us be a church that returns to Jesus, our first love so that nothing stands in the way of His Holy Spirit flowing through us!