



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 1, 2026

**Acts 19:11-20** *11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

1. Do you think miracles occur today? How would you define a miracle?
2. The seven sons of Sceva attempted to use the name of Jesus for their own purposes and failed miserably. Why do you think they failed? What do you think is required to be a legitimate miracle worker?
3. Casting doubt on faith healers might be met with a retort that goes something like, "Why do you want to limit the miraculous power of God?" How would you respond to that? What are these faith healers actually saying about themselves and God, if miraculous healing must come through them?
4. The practitioners of magic arts who came to faith burned millions of dollars worth of occultic books, showing the true extent of their repentance. Explain how becoming a Christian enables a person to make such a radical change. How has becoming a Christian changed you?
5. Experiencing a miracle does not ensure a person will come to a saving faith. In fact, even seeing the resurrected Christ did not ensure belief (Matt 28:7). Why do you think that is? Discuss with your group what is necessary for someone to truly believe?
6. Comparing the miraculous instantaneous change in the Ephesian magicians to our own experience of repentance may lead us to feel that we are not measuring up spiritually. What is your understanding of sanctification i.e. the process of becoming more like Christ? How does the miracle of your salvation help you to live a more sanctified life each successive day? What else helps?