**IS WHO OR WHAT YOU WORSHIP WORTH IT?**

**Acts 19:11-41**

**ONLY THOSE WHO ARE TRULY IN CHRIST HAVE THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ LIVING IN THEM**

* *“Now some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists also attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, ‘I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!’ 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this. 15 The evil spirit answered them, ‘I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you?’ 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them, so that they ran out of that house naked and wounded.”* (Acts 19:13-16)
* **Simply claiming to know Jesus and represent Him is not evidence of one’s salvation, but the fruit of the Holy Spirit working in and through a person validates that they have been redeemed.**
* *“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”* (Acts 2:38)
* **If you are truly a born again Christian you can rejoice that God’s Holy Spirit lives in you and empowers you to do His kingdom work!**
* *“You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.”* (Romans 8:9)

**THOSE WHO ARE TRULY IN CHRIST WILL NOT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO EMBRACE THE SINFUL WAYS OF THEIR FORMER LIFESTYLE**

* *“And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, 19 while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed.”* (Acts 19:18-20)
* **The Lord calls us to Himself as we are, but if we truly receive the Gospel of Jesus through faith then God radically changes us into a new person with new desires and goals.**
* *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
* **The lives of true Believers are marked by the desire and pursuit of what please God while allowing God to purge us of anything that is offensive to Him.**
* *“I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* (Galatians 2:20)

**THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST WORSHIP AND \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD**

* *“When he had assembled them, as well as the workers engaged in this type of business, he said, ‘Men, you know that our prosperity is derived from this business. 26 You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this man Paul has persuaded and misled a considerable number of people by saying that gods made by hand are not gods. 27 Not only do we run a risk that our business may be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be despised and her magnificence come to the verge of ruin—the very one all of Asia and the world worship.’”* (Acts 19:25-27)
* **The God we love and worship is alive and gives life to all who call on His name; not a lifeless idol fashioned by human hands that is void of any true life or power.**
* *“The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands. 25 Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things.”* (Acts 17:24-25)
* **Jesus is fully alive and is still infusing His life giving redemption into broken and sinful people every day.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What is something you accomplished that took a lot of effort but it was worth it?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 19:11-41 teach us about God/The Holy Spirit?
* What happened to the Seven sons of Sceva?
* What were the responses of those who believed the gospel?
* Why were the silversmith and others so angry in Acts 19:22-41?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* Who has the Holy Spirit living in them? How do we know?
* What can we learn from the story of those who burned the books?
* How have your desires and goals changes after receiving Jesus?
* What are the biggest hindrances to pursuing what pleases God?
* What are some modern day idols? How do you guard against giving too much attention and affection to these things?
* What will you do differently based on this study?