

January 14, 2024  
Acts 19:11-20  
"Confessing And Disclosing"

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

The handkerchiefs and aprons were tangible symbols of God's power through the apostle. The purpose was to AUTHENTICATE Paul and his message; clearly there was no magical power in the objects themselves. Christianity has nothing to do with magic.

Evil spirits are real. Acts' message demonstrates that God has total power over them.

V 15, the demon said, Jesus I know (*ginōskō*) (to know by interaction and experience). Paul I know (*epistamai*) (to know about or to understand). BUT, the demon did not know the 7 sons of Sceva! Gleaned from *Stanley D. Toussaint*

CHRISTIANS in the area came clean. They renounced their secret acts of magic. They chose to openly demonstrate the change that had come into their lives by burning their tools of the trade in public, in the presence of the congregation. The church now cleansed, became powerful and a growing church as well. The Word of God spread due to the obedience of the people. Your sin can adversely affect others.

They made a COMMITMENT to forsake their old ways publicly. Salvation involves a process of growth and of increasing sanctification. Christians still dabble in the occult to this day. If that's you, take a lesson from these guys! Confess it, renounce it. Thrive!

V 12, some Christians get all bothered by the number 13, or a full moon, or they tote a rabbit's foot, you know, for "luck". No such thing as luck-good or bad. Are you afraid if a black cat crosses your path as you drive down the road? And what about someone casting a spell on you? Do you find yourself caught up in this sort of thing?

**Application:**

"What a glorious conflagration it would be if in every city all the salacious, blasphemous, degrading books, pamphlets, magazines, and papers could be piled together and burned." *A. T. Robertson*. Do you have anything hidden away that would bring shame and reproach on the name of Jesus? To be set free from such things take the formula put forth in our passage today, confess it to God, forsake it, destroy the things in your possession that are drawing your heart away from worshipping the Lord in spirit and in truth, and profess it publicly. The public profession of sin encourages others still trapped in the grip of some sin to do the same.