

The Stories of Our Lives

The Gospel in Motion

[Acts 19:8-17](#)

Since this sermon series began last August, we've traveled through a series of stories displaying the power of God and the faithfulness of the early church. This week's passage is a less common tale of the power of God emphasized through misplaced power. Read the passage out loud. **What's your initial response to this story? What stands out to you the most?**

The power of God was mightily felt through the miracles that Paul performed in the communities he visited. Magic was a big part of the Greco-Roman culture at the time, as people attempted to harness unseen powers to control various aspects of their lives. Seven sons of Skeva, a Jewish high priest, attempt to exorcise demonic spirits from a man "using the name of the Lord Jesus." (v.13) The spirit immediately recognizes that this is not legitimately coming from Jesus or Paul, and leaps on the men and chases them out of town. Being a person of faith is about a relationship that is authentically built with Jesus Christ - unlike the "sons of Skeva" who were trying to act the part but were quickly called out by the demon. **Who in your life has modeled for you an authentic faith? What would you want to change in your life that would draw you closer to an authentic relationship with Jesus?**

Displays of power and miracles were a huge reason for the rapid growth of Christianity. Today, some parts of the world may have a more palpable understanding and experience of miracles. The stories of God's grace in our lives and throughout the world give us a glimpse into God's greater plan. **How do you view miracles and encounters with God's grace? Do you find them plentiful in everyday life, or do they require a grander scale for you?**