

A Foreword: It is not enough to talk about God, you must have Him in your heart. It is not enough to talk about being filled with the Holy Spirit, you <u>must</u> have the power of God!

Psalms 14:1 "...The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God ... "

Acts 19:11-17 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: (12) So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. (13) Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. (14) And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so. (15) And the evil spirit answered and said, <u>Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?</u> (16) And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. (17) And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

This Bible story is about some people who tried to do God's work in name only. They did not really know Jesus as their own Savior, they thought that they could do some great thing if they could just use His name like some magic potion. Does this sound familiar to you? By the way, *there were 9 people, not 7 as some say,* 7 sons of Sceva, 1 Jew and 1 Priest. Can't you just see them in their little group, saying "Let's go over there and try out this name of Jesus, we will really show them!" All nine were almost killed by this demon possessed man!

There are plenty of well meaning people, some even in churches, that use the name of Jesus, who really have never trusted in Him as their own Savior, neither do they really know the power of God's Holy Spirit. God says this about them:

Jude 1:3-4 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:12-13 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; (13) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

These are the kind of people who take over existing works of God, trough the ignorance and neglect of God's real children. They come in and through natural charisma and sly words, assume good works of God. They often destroy them. It is not enough for a leader of a Christian work to know about the name of Jesus. He really needs to know Jesus through repentance and faith in the finished work of God. It is not enough for a leader to have read about the power of the Holy Spirit, <u>but he must be possessed by the power of the Living God, the Holy Spirit</u>. There is no substitute for the real, visible, tangible and demonstrated power of the Holy Ghost. Just ask these phony, empty-headed, religious people, who were almost killed in out text Scripture?

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I would rather preach in a small church, than stand in the corner of a large one!