

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Miracles by Paul



And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

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.

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.

And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

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.

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.

And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

—*The Acts 19:11-18;20.*

One of the outstanding traits of St. Paul, probably the most highly developed of all the disciples, was his constant recognition of the Source of all Power. As fiery and zealous as he was, Paul became more and more gentle and humble as he continued his efforts to serve in the Vineyard, knowing that he was but an instrument for the manifesting of the Christ Power. As he himself expressed it: "God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul."

So tremendous grew the power manifested through the Apostle to the gentiles that his articles of clothing became imbued with sufficient force to be used as a focusing point for healing and dispelling obsessing Spirits from their usurped vehicles. Occultists know that the spiritual vibrations about a house of worship constitute a focusing chan-

nel through which an angel or other higher being may direct its activities in healing and otherwise helping those who come within the sphere of its influence. The same applies to the garments of the highly spiritual human being. Many instances are recorded of this happening in connection with saints. Shrines have been built about some possession or article of clothing belonging to a saint, and miracles of healing accomplished through it as an intermediary.

In this particular incident we have an interesting example of the working of spiritual law. Those spoken of as "the vagabond Jews, exorcists," attempted to use the name of the Christ to dispel evil spirits, but they were not white magicians. They had not developed the Christ Power within themselves, and therefore could not attain results by using the name of the Christ. Only those who live the life dedicated to loving service to others can unfold the positive spiritual power which is essential to performing "miracles" in the name of this mighty Being. Therefore, "the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them . . . so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

In the days when Paul preached and healed there was a common knowledge of obsessing Spirits, but the advent of material science veiled the spiritual nature of man with skepticism and doubt. All things connected with the super-physical came to be regarded as "superstition" by the materialistic mind. During the past decade or so, however, people have again begun to be aware of the reality of Spirit, and to realize that these biblical incidents relate actual facts. As this understanding becomes more prevalent, new "miracles" in healing will be accomplished.