

# **Falling From Greatness**

“Living Large”, part 25, Insights from Acts 19:1-41  
Pastor Bob Johnson, March 3rd, 2024

## **Insights From A Great Start ... (Acts 19)**

- **Recognize the ...**  
(Acts 19:1-10)
- **Be Cautious About ...**  
(Acts 19:11-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- **Be Committed to ...**  
(Acts 19:18-20)
- **Right Doors Don't Mean ...**  
(Acts 19:21-41, 1 Corinthians 16:8-9)

## **Early Signs before Jesus' Sad Statement**

(Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32, 5:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:5-7, Revelation 2:2-5)

## **Insights For Moving Forward:**

- **If I love God ...**  
(John 14:15, Luke 6:46)
- **If I love people ...**  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-8, John 13:35)

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# **This Week's Discussion Guide**

Welcome to our seventh week of our 9 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts.

Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

## **Getting Started:**

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

Last Sunday, we saw how the church of Ephesus had a great start. When have you had a great start at something? How long did the great start last? Why do you think it lasted or didn't last?

In Acts 19, we see another example when right choices don't lead to 'rest and relaxation'. Speaking of R&R, when and where did you enjoy some R&R in that past few years?

If you would go somewhere for some more R&R that you have never been before this spring or summer, where would you like to go?

From last Sunday's message, loving others can be seen in being patient and kind to others. Who has been patient and/or kind to you lately?

Who in your life are you currently having an opportunity to be patient and kind with?

## **Reviewing & Reflecting on Sunday's Passage:**

From reflecting on Acts 19 this past Sunday, was there a particular thought or verse that stood out to you, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

## **Digging Deeper:**

A few years after Paul was in Ephesus, he wrote a letter to the church he had started there. We call that letter the Book of Ephesians.

In this letter, he gave instructions on how to live in a way that will make a positive impact on the city of Ephesus.

Let's look at a few of the things he wrote to help us better understand how we can live so we can have an increasing positive impact on the world around us.

1. Several times throughout the first three chapters of his letter, Paul reminded the Ephesians of who they were as followers of Jesus. This new identity is not something we have to work for. It is ours because we have been adopted into God's family. It means we no longer have to define ourselves by what others say, what our feelings say or what our successes and failures say.

This new identity provides freedom and security and is the foundation of the changed life God gives to us. The following verses describe our identity as Christians.

What 'identity insights' can we share with each other:

Ephesians 1:3, 7-8a, 2:4-10, 2:19-20, 3:12

How would you describe what a person would be like whose life consistently reflects the truths of these verses?

It is easy to forget about our new identity and the freedom and security it provides. What are some ways that could help us remember who we are as followers of Christ?

2. In the last three chapters of the letter to the Ephesians, Paul switches his focus to helping the Ephesians live out their new identity in their relationships with each other and in the community around them. Which of Paul's instructions in the verses below do you find the hardest to carry out? Which is the easiest for you to follow?

Ephesians 4:1-3, 25-28, 29-32; 5:3-5; 6:7

Can you identify one or two areas Paul talked about in which you have seen some growth in your life over the past few months or years?

Is there anything that has been particularly helpful in causing this growth?

3. In order for us to consistently live a transformed life, we need more than knowledge, willpower and effort. We need the power that only God provides. Paul talks about how we can experience the power through the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:18. After reading this verse, how does John 15:4-5 help us understand what it means to depend on God's power to live the Christian life?

What other insights can we identify from the following verses on how to depend on God rather than on our own strength? John 15:4-5, Philippians 2:13, Colossians 2:6-7

What are some challenges we face in tapping into God's power to live the Christian life?

What are some questions you may have on how to tap into God's power in your life?

## **Praying Together:**

One of the blessings of being in a small group is being prayed for. Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?