

## Scripture Texts

### **1 CORINTHIANS 16:8,9**

But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

### **ACTS 19:1,2,5,6,8-10,13,15,16,18-20,23-25,28,29**

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years...

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and bleeding.

And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.”

Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!” So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Paul’s travel companions.

# Big Ideas

1

To avoid conflict then be nothing,  
say nothing, and do nothing.  
But if you want to make a difference  
then be prepared for insults,  
controversy, accusations,  
and adversaries.

2

As soon as we begin to believe the  
lie that there is nothing new to learn,  
nothing new to experience,  
nothing new to develop,  
we begin to spiritually die.

3

Faith gets us out of the boat;  
the Helper does the rest.

4

Not every seed we sow will fall on good  
soil, but if we obsess over the ones that  
don't produce, the enemy will depress  
us from ever sowing again.

5

Consistent Christian community affords  
us the opportunity to be truly known  
and truly loved...  
not because we are perfect,  
but because we are home.

6

God will not share His throne with  
another. When a church moves into a  
city, it begins to take back land that had  
been held by the enemy, sometimes for  
generations. It is a spiritual disruption.

# Questions & Takeaways

- Is avoiding conflict keeping me from pursuing and receiving God's best?
- Is faith getting me *out of the boat*? And once *out of the boat*, am I relying on the Helper (the Holy Spirit) to do the rest?
- How can I be part of God's work to retake the city... to proclaim the Gospel and see lives changed for generations?

Notes Archive: [www.thepursuitnw.com/notes](http://www.thepursuitnw.com/notes)

Calendar: [www.thepursuitnw.com/calendar](http://www.thepursuitnw.com/calendar)

Giving: [www.thepursuitnw.com/give](http://www.thepursuitnw.com/give)

News: [www.thepursuitnw.com/news](http://www.thepursuitnw.com/news)

**PURSUIT**