

***“Standing Firm When the World
Pushes Back ”
Acts 19:23-41***

1. When the gospel spreads, Satan creates
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2. People resist the gospel because Satan
_____ their _____ to the truth of God.
3. Opposition arises because the gospel
_____ .
4. God is protecting _____ and _____
against the opposition of Satan.

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Church pure, and therefore the Church powerful.
The Church patronized has always been the
Church in peril, and very often the Church
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Questions for the Week

1. In Acts 19, the gospel began changing people's lives, and opposition quickly followed. Where do you see opposition to the gospel in your own life, family, workplace, or community? How can we recognize when opposition is ultimately an attempt to hinder the work of Christ?
2. The people of Ephesus became so convinced of their false worship that they could not see the truth clearly. What are some things that can blind people to the truth of the gospel today? Are there areas where you might be tempted to believe what is comfortable or culturally accepted rather than what Scripture teaches?
3. The gospel threatened the idol making business in Ephesus because people were turning away from their idols. Why does genuine gospel change sometimes create conflict? What sins, idols, habits, or priorities does the gospel confront in your own life? How should we respond when Scripture exposes something we would rather hold onto?
4. Even though the situation in Ephesus became chaotic, God ultimately prevented the mob from harming Paul and his companions. What encouragement do you find in knowing that God is sovereign over the opposition His people face? How should this truth affect the way we respond when we experience hostility, discouragement, or resistance because of our faith?

Questions for the Week

1. Where are you most tempted to "use God" for your own purposes? Are there ways you approach prayer, Scripture, ministry, or your relationship with Jesus primarily because of what you hope God will give you or accomplish for you?
2. The sons of Sceva attempted to use the name of Jesus as a spiritual formula (Acts 19:13-16). How can we fall into a similar pattern by treating Scripture as a tool for getting what we want rather than allowing God's Word to change us? What would it look like to submit to Scripture even when it challenges your desires?
3. Paul's ministry in Ephesus demonstrated integrity, repentance, and a desire to make the name of Jesus great (Acts 19:8-20). Which of these areas is God currently calling you to grow in? What specific change might that require in your life?
4. Acts 19:18-19 describes people publicly turning away from practices that were incompatible with following Christ. What sinful attitudes, habits, influences, or possessions might you need to put away because they compete with your allegiance to Jesus?
5. "The word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily" (Acts 19:20). If God were to use your life to make the name of Jesus great this week, where would you expect to see that happen? What would bold, unashamed faithfulness look like there?