



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ***Firm Foundation for the Future - Week Two***

We are filled with gratitude for all that God has done for and through His church ever since the early church. As you read and pray this week, ask yourself what God has done for you or through you for which you are thankful.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

#### Prayer Focus:

- Join us for 28 days of prayer as we lay a firm foundation for our future. Text 'provchurch' to 855-615-7768 to receive daily prayer prompts.

## DAILY STUDY

### **MONDAY: ACTS 19.11-17 (MSG)**

*God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,<sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.*

<sup>13</sup> *Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you*

to come out.”<sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.<sup>15</sup> One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”<sup>16</sup> Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

<sup>17</sup> When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

- In Sunday’s message at Providence we heard this sentence: “The book of Acts is not a picture of history, relegated to centuries past, it is a Vision of the church today.” This truth is at once comforting and challenging. It is inspiring to be a part of the very real movement of God. At the same time (let’s be honest) there are some things about the way God works that we don’t quite understand. God’s ok with that! What we need to know is that the Spirit of God really works on our behalf to bring healing and freedom from evil. When have you experienced a sense of freedom that could only come from God?
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- **Prayer Prompt: “This, then is how you should pray...And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6.9,13)**
- *God, I spend so much time fixated on the evil I see in the world around me. Help me to first receive the freedom you offer me...deliver me from evil. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: LUKE 8.42-48 (NIV)**

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.<sup>43</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her.<sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

<sup>45</sup> “Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.”

<sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

<sup>47</sup> Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.<sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

- The power of God was so strong in Jesus, and subsequently in his followers, that people experienced power through the things that they had touched. We tend to want to hold on to that which we believe can save us from sin and suffering. The woman who had been suffering for twelve years was desperate enough to touch whatever part of Jesus she could get to. The edge of

his cloak was enough! Have you ever experienced that kind of desperation? Where do you go for healing?

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- **Prayer Prompt: When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. <sup>15</sup> He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. (Matthew 8.14-15)**
- *God, I long to see your healing in me and others I love. Come close enough today that in reaching out to you, we can be made whole. Amen.*

### **WEDNESDAY: JAMES 5.14-15 (NIV)**

*Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.*

- This is the practice of the church. To set aside those who are sick and suffering and anoint them with oil in the name of Jesus. We have seen how God works through this act of faithfulness. Healing is in God's hands and he gives us a way to participate in it. Amazing! Have you ever experienced this kind of prayer? What kind of healing do you need today? Have you ever prayed for others in such a way?
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- **Prayer Prompt: They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. (Mark 6.13)**
- *Lord God, would you increase my faith in the healing power of Jesus Christ. Bring your healing into my life today. Amen.*

### **THURSDAY: ROMANS 8.18-21 (NIV)**

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.*

- Throughout scripture and throughout our world today, we can get a real sense of a longing for that which is not yet. We were created to live in wholeness, to be people of hope, and to be free from bondage to decay. We read it in the passage from Acts this week as well. People were looking to handkerchiefs and aprons, the woman in Luke 8 was looking for freedom from her infirmity and found it through the touch of Jesus' garment. Where do you experience this groaning that is expressed through all of creation?
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- **Prayer Prompt: call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.” (Psalm 50.15)**
- *Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I understand what it means to groan with hopeful expectation of your redemption of the world, and of my life. Come Lord Jesus! Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: MATTHEW 28.16-20 (NIV)**

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- You may know this as the great commission. These are words from Jesus to his disciples as he set them up for what was to come. It was a way of saying that the movement could be unleashed upon the world. The disciples didn't yet realize what it would be like when God sent His Spirit upon the church at Pentecost, but they knew what their commission was when it did. What would it mean for you to be a carrier of the “aprons and handkerchiefs” (Acts 19) of healing to a broken world?
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- **Prayer Prompt: “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20.21)**
- *God, I hear your call to go and make disciples of others. Everything I need for this good work comes from you. Give me power and give me wisdom to serve you well. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: PSALM 95.1-3 (NIV)

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

<sup>2</sup> *Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.*

<sup>3</sup> *For the LORD is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.*

- We read these verses to start our service on Sunday as we celebrated all of the beautiful ministry that God has stirred up in and through Providence Church. We celebrate all that God has done for us. If you were to display signs of all that God has done, is doing, and will do in your life, what would they look like?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.**  
<sup>23</sup> **They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3.22-23)**
- *God, let my life be a song of thanksgiving for all that you have done. You are the great King above all gods. Amen.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION

In Sunday's message, Jacob shared these truths from the somewhat strange passage in Acts 19.11-17:

Healing is real.

Miracles are real.

Evil can be driven out.

God uses the church not to harness the Spirit of God but to unleash the Spirit of God.

- What examples of each of these statements have you witnessed?