

CHRISTIANS #1

While Paul was on his third missionary journey preaching in the city of Ephesus we're told he performed miracles which included the casting out of some evil spirits. There were men in the area who claimed similar power and tried to imitate what Paul had done but with devastating results.

In Acts 19:13-17 we read: "But some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, 'I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.' Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, 'I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?' And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded. This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified."

These men were frauds and called on the name of Jesus without authority to do so. Many today falsely claim to heal in the name of Jesus but an even greater number wear the name of Christ without His authority. If we are going to call ourselves Christians, we better be sure we have obeyed the gospel of Christ and have the right to wear His great name.