

## Jesus Doesn't Need Magic.

### Acts 19:11-19

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. 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 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 that 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. Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing, and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So, the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

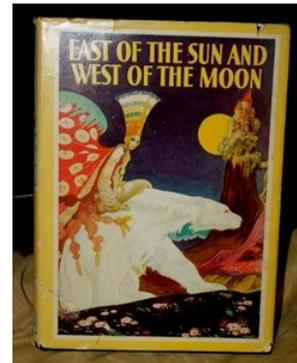


Photo: Jesus doesn't need magic. He is magic.

### Every Day with God

Here we have another mysterious story about evil spirits. Paul is making lots of progress through his miracles to the point, where other people are trying to do the same thing by using some form of magic. Unfortunately, they don't fully comprehend what Paul is doing and from where he gets his power. Evil spirits who are being dispelled come out of man who possesses them and give the "magicians" a good licking. This serves as a warning to others who now were practicing magic in the name of the Lord.

What are we to make of this story? Magic is not real, it just looks real. Jesus is for real. His miracles are true, they happened because He is our almighty king and everlasting father, the King of Kings. He doesn't have to do magic. He proved himself when he was crucified on the cross, died and was buried, and rose again. That's all we need to know. He is for real.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank you for being the real deal.