

RELIGIOUS RESISTANCE Acts 19:1-20

Truthfully, the advance of God's work and the growth of God's Church depend upon the prevailing power of God's Word. So let me put it this way:

1. God's Word prevails when the gospel is **clearly communicated** (v.1-7). We are always going to battle giving out a **cloudy** or **incomplete** message.
2. God's Word prevails when religious **resistance** doesn't defeat us (v.8-10). We will always battle religious **opposition**.
3. God's Word prevails when spiritual imitations don't **deceive** us (v.11-17). We will always battle **tares** among the wheat.
4. God's Word prevails when true believers **confess their sin** (as often as they need to) (v.18-19). We will always battle the pull of **sin** and **culture**.
 - a. The evil **habits** we do in private hinder the work of God.
 - b. The sinful practices we **refuse** to let go hinder the Church of Jesus.

- c. The wicked things we **conceal** from God (you can't do it, really) hinder the Word of God from powerfully prevailing.
- d. Repentance and faith are a **one-time event** for the salvation of your soul.
- e. Confession and repentance are an **ongoing necessity** for the sins that ruin our usefulness to God.
- f. Are you trying to live **two lives**... one in the dark and one in the light?
- g. Do you need to **burn** some bridges to some wicked habits?

Let's pray.

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