

Missing the essential piece

- When do we miss an essential piece of something?
 - Physical examples
 - Life examples
- How might that happen in life as a whole?
- How might that happen in the Christian life?

1

You shall receive Power!

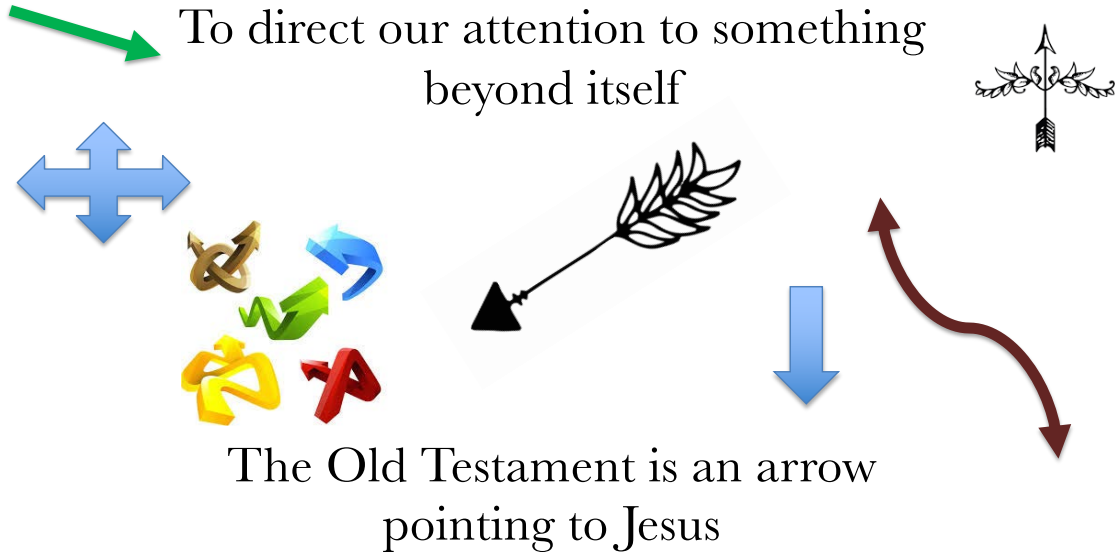
Acts 19:1-20

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2

What is the purpose of an arrow?



3

Pointing Forward from the Old Testament

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a **new covenant**  **Jesus**

...It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors... because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.


...they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

from Jeremiah 31:31-34

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Pointing Forward from the Old Testament

A **voice of one calling**: **John the Baptist**  **Jesus**
 “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

...

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
 and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

from Isaiah 40:3-5

5

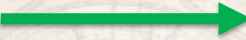
Pointing Forward from John the Baptist

John the Baptist said freely, “I am not the **Messiah**.”

“I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness,
 ‘Make straight the way for **the Lord**.’”

“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands
 one you do not know. **He is the one who comes after
 me**, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

from John 1:19-27

John the Baptist  **Jesus**

Apollos: had been a preacher in Ephesus

- Knew a lot about John the Baptist, and some about Jesus

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Acts 19:1-20

1-7: John's disciples found new life in Jesus by the Spirit

8-10: • They focused on John the Baptist

11-16: • rather than the one to whom John pointed (Jesus)

17-20: • Paul could tell something was missing

• Solution: Focus on Jesus & baptism in Jesus' name

• Gifts of the Spirit confirmed their need
for genuine new life into Jesus Christ

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Acts 19:1-20

1-7: John's disciples found new life in Jesus by the Spirit

8-10: Paul proclaimed this new life in Jesus boldly

11-16: • Extended time in the synagogue

17-20: • Focus: Kingdom of God

• Jesus is the fulfillment of the promised blessing
of new & eternal life to all peoples of all nations

• Continued until opposition blocked the message

• Daily teaching & learning: commitment to grow

• The Word of the Lord spread to all peoples
in the province

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Acts 19:1-20

1-7: John's disciples found new life in Jesus by the Spirit

8-10: Paul proclaimed this new life in Jesus boldly

11-16: Spirit's power >> demons' power >> people's power

17-20: • God did the miracles through Paul **is far greater than**

- Perhaps sweat rag and work cloth: not special!
- God used their thinking (rags) to help their faith
- Christianity is not magic:
 - Magic (demons)=techniques to make spiritual powers do what we want them to do
 - There is no technique to make God do what we want
- God does miracles still, but at His choice, not ours

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Acts 19:1-20

1-7: John's disciples found new life in Jesus by the Spirit

8-10: Paul proclaimed this new life in Jesus boldly

11-16: Spirit's power >> demons' power >> people's power

17-20: God's Word had power in people's lives

- Story of demons led people to see Jesus' power
 - And also the seriousness of using His Name
- Syncretism=mixing different approaches
 - Christians were using magic (demons) too
 - Maybe just holding on to it "in case"
- Public and sacrificial declaration: Jesus alone!
 - \$5-6 million! The Word was powerful!

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The Big Idea

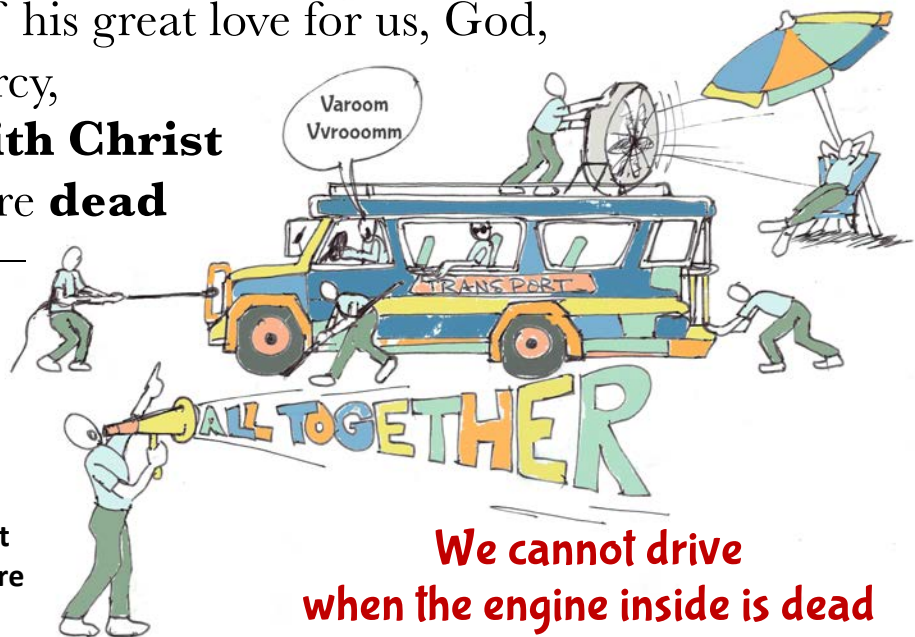
Genuine Christianity can only be lived
by the all-surpassing power of the Holy Spirit
at work in us

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As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins,
... But because of his great love for us, God,
who is rich in mercy,
made us **alive with Christ**
even when we were **dead**
in transgressions—
it is by grace you
have been saved.

from Ephesians 2:1-5

grace = Jesus' sacrifice that
brings life to those who were
dead apart from God



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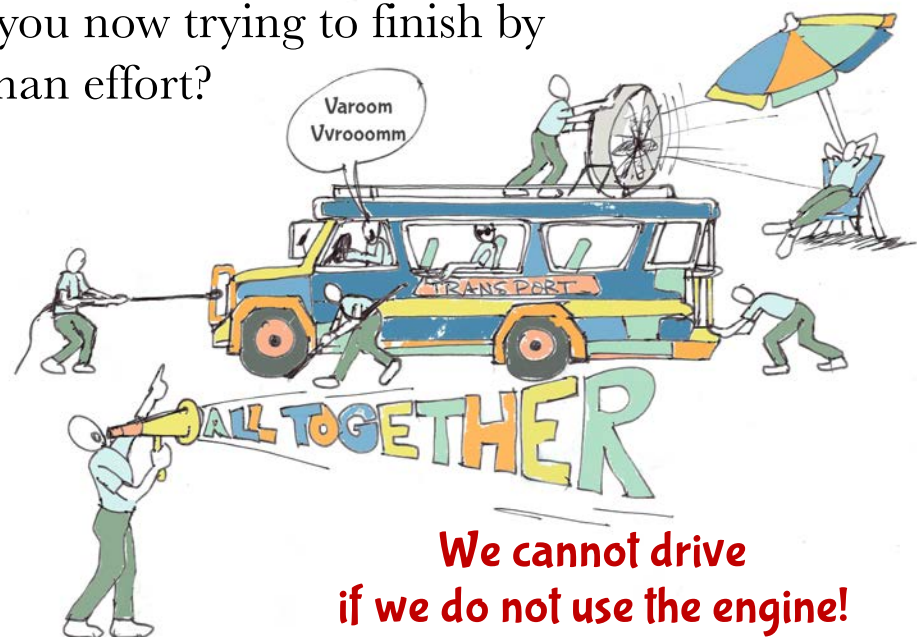
Application

- “Know” the folly and loss of living life without the Holy Spirit’s power **Christians do it to!**
 - **Self:** Willpower, determination, skill, ...
 - We may keep trying again and again and...
 - **Others:** family, friends, culture, country, ...
 - We may blame them, or look for a better one
 - **Technique:** book, strategy
 - We may look for a better one, or follow it closer
 - **Another spiritual power**
 - We may look to the dead, or idols, or...

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After beginning your Christian life by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the human effort?

From Galatians 3:3



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Application

- “Know” the folly and loss of living life without the Holy Spirit’s power **Christians do it to!**
“syncretism”
 - **Self:** Willpower, determination, skill, ...
 - We may keep trying again and again and... **and again...**
 - **Others:** family, friends, culture, country, ...
 - We may blame them, or look for a better one **Find a better church, preacher, Life Group, ...**
 - **Technique:** book, strategy
 - We may look for a better one, or follow it closer **Find a new book, technique, ...**
 - **Another spiritual power** **Seek other powers**
 - We may look for the dead, or idols, or...

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Application

- “Know” the folly and loss of living life without the Holy Spirit’s power
 - “But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those **weak and miserable forces?**”

Galatians 4:9

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Application

- “Know” the folly and loss of living life without the Holy Spirit’s power
- Begin a genuine new life in Christ
 - Becoming a Christian is not...
 - saying the right words or praying the right prayer
 - feeling bad and trying to do better
 - respecting Jesus and the Bible
 - Becoming a Christian is...
 - a work of the Spirit of God through faith in Christ

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Application

- “Know” the folly and loss of living life without the Holy Spirit’s power
- Begin a genuine new life in Christ
 - “But because of his great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And **God raised us up with Christ** and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” *Ephesians 2:4-6*

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Application

- “Know” the folly and loss of living life without the Holy Spirit’s power
- Begin a genuine new life in Christ
- Live a genuine new life in Christ
 - “Know” that without the Spirit we are lost
 - Pray for & expect the all-surpassing power of God in us
 - In relationship with God through Christ, not like magic
 - Make every effort to grow in Christ (2 years, daily...)
 - Obey His commands as an expression of faith
 - Expect His work to ‘fill’ our knowledge & obedience
 - Praise God for what He does (visible & invisible)

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Jesus told His disciples:

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been **clothed with power from on high**.

Luke 24:49

Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for **the gift my Father promised**, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**.

Acts 1:4-5

But you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**.

Acts 1:8

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Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.
Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**,

- ***speaking to one another*** with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.
- ***Sing and make music*** from your heart ***to the Lord***,
- always ***giving thanks to God*** the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ***Submit to one another*** out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-21

debauchery = a wild and destructive mess
be filled with = empowered by

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The Big Idea

Genuine Christianity can only be lived
by the all-surpassing power of the Holy Spirit
at work in us

**Have you and I been living life by something less
than the power of the Holy Spirit?**

- **Turn to Jesus Christ, and receive the Spirit**
- **Turn away from other things, and be filled by the Spirit**

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