

**Unhindered
The Book of Acts
God Using Us vs. Us Using God
Acts 19:1-20**

- **Introduction**
 - God wants to use us for His glory which is to be reflected in His church.
 - As the church advances, He is glorified. For that to take place we must be about sharing the gospel, empowerment to do what needs to be done, and equipping ourselves for His purposes.
 - What we need to be careful of is seeking to use God to accomplish our own purposes. No matter how noble we may think they are.
- **God advances the church through the sharing of the gospel.**
 - Some who need to be evangelized already believe and are in the church.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - When the gospel is shared, it draws a line.
 - It exposes the difference between religion to appease a god and relationship with God.
 - Romans 3:23–24
 - All who truly believe should be baptized.
 - Colossians 2:11–12
- **God advances the church by empowering us with the Holy Spirit.**
 - All who truly believe in Jesus have received the Holy Spirit.
 - Romans 8:9
 - Speaking in tongues and prophesying are not normative signs of receiving the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:30–31
 - Those who have received the Spirit by faith in Jesus must learn to walk in the power of the Spirit.
 - Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18
- **God advances the church by equipping the church.**
 - Ephesians 4:11–13
- **We must be careful not to try and use God for our own purposes.**
 - We attempt to use God when we use spiritual power for financial gain.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:3-18, 1 Timothy 5:17-18, 3 John 6-8
 - We attempt to use God when we manipulate the Scriptures according to what “works.”
 - Ezekiel 13:6
 - We attempt to use God when we dabble in the occult.
 - The reality of modern Christianity is that there are many things we have come to consider innocent that are dabbling in powers that we are much weaker to deal with than we realize.
- **We should allow God to use us according to His will and for His glory.**
 - God uses people of integrity who are willing to submit to His will.
 - Every demon recognized Paul’s integrity, not the exorcists.
 - God uses people who demonstrate their faith through repentance.
 - The Ephesians who had professed faith in Christ had not genuinely repented.
 - They were still doing their old occultic practices just in case Jesus “didn’t work.”
 - God uses people who magnify the name of Jesus.
 - John 3:30
 - God uses people willing to share the gospel and His word.
- **Conclusion**
 - Are we trying to use God or are we allowing God to use us?
 - The question really is not whether God is available to us for our use.
 - The question is whether we are available to God for HIS use!
 - When we are, people are empowered and equipped to make disciples, advance the church, and change the world, unhindered.