



# Unstoppable By Opposition

**"And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. And the whole city was filled with confusion..." (Acts 19:23,29).**

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"After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. 22 So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season. 23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. 24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; 25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. 26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: 27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. 29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre. 30 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. 31 And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre. 32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused: and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together. 33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. 34 But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. 35 And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter? 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be

**"Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused: and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together" (Acts 19:32).**

spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly. 37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. 38 Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another. 39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly. 40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse. 41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly" (Acts 19:21-41).

**Paul's Missionary Journey:** "After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. 'After I have been there,' he said, 'I must visit Rome also.'" (Acts 19:21, NIV). Paul's journey showcases his unwavering commitment to spreading the Gospel, despite knowing the challenges ahead. Ephesus was a major centre for commerce and religion in the ancient world, making it a significant location for Paul's ministry.

**2. The Purposeful Resolve (Acts 19:21)** "I must visit Rome also." (Acts 19:21, NIV. Having a clear mission fortifies us against opposition - "For this reason I have been much hindered from coming to you." (Romans 15:22, KJV). **A focused mission provides clarity and strength.**

**3. The Impact of the Gospel (Acts 19:23-27).** "About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way." (Acts 19:23, NIV). **The Gospel's spread affected local industries, particularly those profiting from idolatry, and instigated Spiritual Warfare.** "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this

world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12, KJV) **Recognise and be at peace with the fact that spiritual battles accompany evangelism.**

**4. The Instigators of Opposition (Acts 19:24-28).** Opposition often arises from those whose interests are threatened by the Gospel - "A silver-smith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there." (Acts 19:24, NIV). The next verse reveals his motives behind the opposition. "He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: 'You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business.'" (Acts 19:25, NIV). **Financial loss and fear of change motivate opposition.**

**5. Mob Mentality (Acts 19:29-32)** "Soon the whole city was in an uproar." (Acts 19:29, NIV). **Fear and confusion can lead to widespread unrest. However, Paul stayed grounded and heeded wise counsel, a crucial step to victory.** "Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him." (Acts 19:30, NIV)

**6. The Voice of Reason (Acts 19:33-34).** "Alexander motioned for silence in order to make a defence before the people." (Acts 19:33, NIV). He **made efforts to bring clarity and reason in the midst of chaos, a crucial step to victory.** The crowd resorted to false accusations. "But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: 'Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!'" (Acts 19:34, NIV). **Face misrepresentation with patience and truth.**

**7. The Intervention of Authorities (Acts 19:35-41)** "The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: 'Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?'" (Acts 19:35, NIV). **Wise leadership plays a vital role in conflict resolution.. God uses secular authorities to maintain peace.** "If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly." (Acts 19:39, NIV)

**8. Perseverance in the Face of Adversity.** "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia." (Acts 20:18, NIV). **He maintained consistency in mission despite challenges., and trusted in God's plan in the midst of opposition.** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

(Philippians 4:13, KJV).

**9. Overcoming Through Unity.** "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." (Acts 1:14, NIV). **Strength is found in fellowship and collective prayer..** "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3, NIV). **Unity in Christ dismantles opposition.**

#### **10. Be Unstoppable By Opposition**

- "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV)
- 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; 2 And sent Timothy, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: 3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
- 4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. 5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.
- **Reminding believers of their calling and God's sovereignty.**
- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19, NIV)
- Stand firm and continue the mission.

#### **Closing Prayer**

##### **(a) Seeking God's Strength:**

- "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31, KJV)
- Pray for courage, wisdom, and perseverance.

##### **(b) Thanksgiving:**

- "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1, NIV)
- Expressing gratitude for God's guidance and protection.