

Acts 19:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Analysis

'From his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.' These secondary relics (items touched by Paul) conveyed healing power. While unusual, this demonstrates God's sovereignty in using whatever means He chooses. However, this isn't normative - it was unique to apostolic ministry in a context saturated with magical practices.

Historical Context

This accommodation to Ephesian culture (where magical amulets and relics were common) showed God's power eclipsed pagan magic. The genuine miracles contrasted with the fraudulent magic prevalent in Ephesus.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes accommodate cultural contexts in displaying His power?
2. What's the difference between biblical miracles and magical superstition?
3. How should we understand apostolic miracles versus expectations for today?

Interlinear Text

ὥστε καὶ ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀσθενοῦντας ἐπιφέρεισθαι ἀπ' τοῦ
G5620 **So** G2532 **unto** G1909 G3588 **the sick** G770 **were brought** G2018 **from** G575 G3588

χρωτὸς αὐτῶν σουδάρια ἢ σιμικίνθια καὶ
body G5559 **his** G846 **handkerchiefs** G4676 **or** G2228 **aprons** G4612 **So** G2532

ἀπαλλάσσεσθαι ἀπ' αὐτῶν τὰς νόσους τὰ τε
departed G525 **from** G575 **his** G846 G3588 **the diseases** G3554 G3588 **and** G5037

πνεύματα τὰ πονηρὰ ἐξέρχεσθαι ἀπ' αὐτῶν
spirits G4151 G3588 **the evil** G4190 **went** G1831 **from** G575 **his** G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:15 (Parallel theme): Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

Mark 16:17 (Evil): And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;