

Acts 19:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

Analysis

Many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds—The public confession (ἐξομολογούμενοι) of secret practices demonstrates repentance's thorough nature. The Greek present tense suggests continuous action: believers kept coming forward. **Shewed their deeds** (ἀναγγέλλοντες τὰς πράξεις αὐτῶν) implies open declaration of formerly hidden magical practices. This wasn't merely emotional catharsis but prerequisite to verse 19's dramatic break with occultism. True revival produces radical honesty about sin, refusing to compartmentalize 'spiritual' areas while concealing compromise. The Ephesian believers' transparency created accountability and communal purity.

Historical Context

In Ephesus's magical culture, practitioners guarded their formulas and techniques as trade secrets. Public confession of magical involvement risked social and economic consequences but demonstrated that allegiance to Christ outweighed all competing loyalties.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What 'hidden deeds' might contemporary believers need to confess for complete break with former life?
2. How does public confession of sin strengthen both individual believers and church community?

Interlinear Text

πολλοί τε τῶν πεπιστευκότων ἤρχοντο ἐξομολογούμενοι
many And G3588 that believed G4100 came G2064 and confessed G1843
G4183 G5037 G4100 G2064 G1843

καὶ ἀναγγέλλοντες τὰς πράξεις αὐτῶν
and shewed G3588 deeds G846
G2532 G312 G4234 G846

Additional Cross-References

Romans 10:10 (Faith): For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Psalms 32:5 (Parallel theme): I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Matthew 3:6 (Parallel theme): And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.