

# Acts 19:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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

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

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

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.