

# Acts 19:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

## Analysis

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Luke's summary—'So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed'—personifies the word, giving it dynamic, powerful agency. The word (logos) isn't mere human speech but God's effective power (Isaiah 55:11, Hebrews 4:12). 'Mightily grew' (kata kratos ēuxanan) describes supernatural expansion. 'Prevailed' (ischyen) means overcame opposition, proving irresistible despite magic practices (19:19), riots (19:23-41), and persecution. This demonstrates the word's self-authenticating power—God causes growth (1 Corinthians 3:6-7), ministers merely plant and water. The context (burning expensive magic books worth 50,000 silver pieces, 19:19) shows the gospel's transforming power, demolishing deeply entrenched occultism. Where God's word goes forth, it accomplishes His purpose.

## Historical Context

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Ephesus, Asia's capital and Diana's temple location, was a center of magic and occultism. The burning of magic books represented massive financial loss but demonstrated converts' genuine repentance—they didn't sell books to profit but destroyed them completely. First-century 'curious arts' (periergōn, 19:19) included spells, incantations, and magical formulas. Ephesian letters (Ephesia grammata) were famous magical texts. Paul's three-year ministry there (20:31) established a church that influenced all Asia (19:10). His Ephesian letter later addressed spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18), fitting a context formerly dominated by occult powers. The gospel's triumph in such hostile territory demonstrates its divine origin and power.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing God's word as living and powerful affect how you read and proclaim Scripture?
2. What 'magic books' in your life—sinful practices or idols—need burning to demonstrate genuine conversion?

## Interlinear Text

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Οὕτως κατὰ κράτος ὁ λόγος τοῦ κυρίου ηὔξανεν  
So mightily G2904 G3588 the word G3588 of God G2962 grew  
G3779 G2596 G3056 G837

καὶ ἴσχυεν  
and prevailed  
G2532 G2480

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 12:24** (Word): But the word of God grew and multiplied.

**Acts 6:7** (Word): And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

**Isaiah 55:11** (Word): So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

**2 Thessalonians 3:1** (Word): Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

