

Not a Decaf Gospel

Acts 19:23 “About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way.”

About seven years ago I was meeting with a mentor, and I took my son Joseph to tag along. Anyway, we met at a coffee shop, and my friend had ordered a drink, but they made it wrong. He was about to take his drink back, and the barista said, “Just keep it, stay at the table, and I’ll make you a new one.”

While I’m being mentored, Joseph, who is five at the time, is drinking it without our noticing (typical men). This iced-coffee that Joseph thought was a milkshake had two full shots of espresso in it. Needless to say, there was plenty of evidence in raw-energy that my son had undoubtedly consumed a double-espresso beverage.

What happens when we consume the Gospel of Christ?

If it’s not the real thing, strongholds don’t break loose, deliverance is temporary, and not sustained. If it’s not real, you can say you’ll love your enemy, but won’t have the power to truly live it. Also, demons will trample you underfoot, and victory will always seem to evaporate. Just ask the Seven Sons of Sceva in Acts 19.

Romans 1:16 says attest to the true gospel/good news, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” If the gospel is not having any effect in your life, it’s because you’re not truly surrendering, and still trying to do life with your own strength.

Power, victory, and deliverance come to me only when I’m at the point that I say, “God, I can’t do this thing called life on my own strength. You have to be my deliverance. You have to be my strength. You are my freedom.” The good news/Gospel is that Jesus paid it all to be our all.