

## GOSPEL POWER

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

Three things I'd like to share with you today.

1. According to Genesis 1 and 2 we were never created to live apart from the presence of the God. He determined from the beginning to be the source of our life and the supply of our life.
2. According to Genesis 3 we were never created to live in this world system ruled by Satan. He lied to Eve and convinced her that independence from God was the thing that she really needed and it resulted in spiritual death.
3. The gospel is not a powerless, academic, religious teaching. It's the power of God to restore man back to his original oneness with God and fill him with God's eternal life.

The Gospel, God's supernatural plan, redeemed man back into his original oneness with God.

And

God did it in a way that only God could do.

He put us in Christ, crucified our old nature, raised us from the dead with Christ, adopted us into His family, transferred us into His Kingdom out of the control of Satan, and made us His children, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ, and citizens of His kingdom.

Let's look at some scriptures that support these statements of reality from God.

1 Thessalonians 1.5 amp, for our good news [regarding salvation] came to you not only in word, but also in [its inherent] power and in the Holy Spirit and with great conviction [on our part].

The Apostle Paul describes his presentation of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 1.4

And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom [using clever rhetoric], but [THEY WERE DELIVERED IN DEMONSTRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, OPERATING THROUGH ME, AND OF HIS POWER [stirring the minds of the listeners and persuading them], so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom *and* rhetoric of men, BUT ON THE POWER OF GOD.

He also declares his total rejection of his former religious life and his desire to lay hold of the life that God made available for him and for all mankind.

Philippians 3.7

But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them *mere* rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, THAT I MAY KNOW HIM and THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION.

Paul also prayed that his fellow brothers and sisters would be able to see by revelation from God's Holy Spirit, this new life that God made available and to lay hold of and possess it.

Colossians 1.9

For this reason, we also, since the day we heard *about it*, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work

and increasing in the knowledge of God, STRENGTHENED WITH ALL POWER, ACCORDING TO HIS GLORIOUS MIGHT, for the attaining of all perseverance and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

And also, in Ephesians 1.17

We pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and WHAT IS THE BOUNDLESS GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE.

The Amplified version reads,

And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so THAT YOU WILL KNOW *and* cherish the hope [THE DIVINE GAURANTEE, AND THE CONFIDENT EXPECTATION, to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people), and [SO THAT YOU WOULD KNOW WHAT IS THE IMMEASURABLE AND UNLIMITED AND SURPASSING GREATNESS OF HIS ACTIVE SPIRITUAL POWER IN US WHO BELIEVE.

The Apostle Peter declares God's intention for His people to possess this new nature that His power made available to us.

2 Peter 1.3

HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, SO THAT THROUGH THEM YOU MAY BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE...

Paul also declares the result of our resurrection with Christ and God's promise to make this happen in our lives, apart from our own efforts.

1 Corinthians 15.45

So, it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being" THE LAST ADAM (Christ) BECAME A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT.

And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so also SHALL WE BEAR THE LIKENESS OF THE HEAVENLY MAN.

Also, in Romans 8.29

For THOSE GOD FOREKNEW, HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, so that He would be the, firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

Ephesians 2.6

And God RAISED US UP WITH CHRIST AND SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS in Christ Jesus,

Paul then declares our commission that resulted from God's incredible work on our behalf.

2 Corinthians 5.20

Therefore, WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, as though God were making His appeal through us.

And he asked this powerful question of us.

WHAT SHALL WE SAY IN RESPONSE TO THESE THINGS?

I believe that this is the response that our Heavenly Father is looking for. Thank you Daddy I receive it.

It's pretty obvious from these scriptures that I've shared that God exercised His supernatural power to redeem us back into His family and into our original oneness with Him.

So, what does that really mean for us?

Let's look at the scriptures.

1 John 5.10 says,

Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within him; whoever does not believe God has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given about His Son.

And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

From this scripture we can see that God has committed His very own supernatural, eternal life to us.

And He did it in a way that only He could do it

1 Corinthians 1.30 reads

But IT IS BY HIS DOING THAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written: "let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

The Apostle Paul explains in Romans chapter 6, how this was done.

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all *time*; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

God knew that our old fallen and sinful nature was so corrupted that it was not fixable or repairable. So He put us in Christ, and then whatever happened to Christ, happened to us. We were crucified with Him, buried with Him, raised from the dead with Him, to a new life created by God.

That life is available to every person on this planet by faith in God's incredible work on their behalf.

If we've received God's gift of eternal life and become members of His family and citizens and ambassadors of His kingdom, what does that really mean for us?

Let me just list a few scriptures to show what it meant to His first disciples.

They became members of God's family. John 20.17

Jesus told Mary I'm going to my God and your God, my father and your father.

They receive the same spirit that He has. John 20.19-22

He breathed on them and said receive my Spirit.

They received the power of the Holy Spirit to Be His witnesses. Acts 1.8

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my Witnesses.

They were commanded to preach the kingdom of God, Heal the sick, Cleanse the lepers, Raise the dead Mark 16.15-20

In reading these scriptures it becomes obvious that God has committed His authority and His power to His sons to continue to manifest His Kingdom in this earth.

Many today in the modern Church have been taught that these things have passed away and are no longer necessary to fulfill God's Great Commission.

God testified in the scriptures, that I do nothing without revealing it through my servants the prophets.

There is no prophet in the scriptures that ever declared the end of this commission.

There is no record anywhere else in the scriptures that this commission was ever rescinded.

Now for a few final thoughts.

Modern religious Christianity seems content to continually profess an academic gospel void of power.

Paul told his young co-worker Timothy that in the last days men would have a form of religion denying its power. And he instructed him to avoid such men as those.

Natural men can preach a purely academic gospel, but it takes sons who are born of His Spirit, and are endued with His power and authority to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom that the Father will confirm and back with His Life.

Let's repent of our natural efforts and allow the Holy Spirit to do exceedingly, abundantly, beyond anything we would ever dare ask or think to manifest His kingdom, by His supernatural power that works within us, to every nation on the planet.

God bless you  
Jim Fuller