

The Encouragement for Spirituality

Introduction

- A. One truth that makes Christianity unique among the religions of the world is the Biblical emphasis and promise of power to do what is right.
- B. The word "power" in this lesson is the translation of the world "dunamis" from which we get our English word "dynamite." The emphasis is on ability to act, inherent power. We have the power to live a spiritual life.
- C. God's promise of power-ability is the answer the question all of us have, namely, "How can I do what I know is right?"

I. The Biblical Emphasis on Power-Ability.

- A. The power related to the gospel.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

Comment: The word "salvation" in this verse refers to more than the new birth. It would include the believer's daily life (Phil. 2:12) and also the fulfillment and completion of salvation in glorification (I Peter 1:5). The reason Paul was not ashamed of the gospel – was that it worked! He was a living witness to the power of the Gospel – as is every true believer.

- B. The power related to the believer's calling.

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. I Corinthians 1:24

Comment: Here the word "dunamis" is used to remind us that whatever God has called us to do – He has given us the power to do it. As we read this verse we immediately want to ask, "But – if that's true – where's the power?" The answer has to do with our faith and practice. The power of God is ours but there is no manifestation until we put our calling into practice by obedience.

- C. The power related to the Resurrection.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death. Philippians 3:10

Comment: Paul's reference here is to the new life all believers have in Christ. This is the very basis and meaning of spirituality. The reason the Apostle sought to know that power indicates that the truths related to the Resurrection must be practiced for the power to be operative.

II. The Biblical Instruction Regarding Power-Ability.

- A. There is power-ability to be a fruitful witness for God.

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto ae both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Comment: This prophecy has come to pass. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out in a new way. The Church (Body of Christ) came into existence and all believers received the divine enablement to obey the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). This power or ability will be manifested in our life as we obey.

- B. There is power-ability provided for the believer's daily life.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1:18-20

Comment: This passage explains the fullness of divine provision for us and also a major portion of the will of God.. Paul prays our spiritual eyes would be opened so we would know "the greatness of his power." This power/ability will be our experience as we learn to obey.

- C. There is power-ability to pray effectively.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Ephesians 3:20

Comment: When we pray God works through us to bring His grace into the life of those for whom we intercede. To understand this principle will encourage us and motivate us to pray. Perhaps the most important act we can perform for one another - is to intercede. This power or ability will be manifested as we learn to pray.

- D. There is power/ability to live the Christian life.

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. Colossians 1:10,11

Comment: As we compare our daily life with these verses we are embarrassed. We cannot allow ourselves to think, however, that such a passage is given us to mock us. The answer is the promise of power - not even on the basis of our need -but "according to his glorious power." This power/ability will be ours as we learn to walk with Him.

Conclusion: NOTICE: It is not enough to have an intense desire to walk with God and to work hard at doing it - we must KNOW how to so walk - and then we must DO IT. This is not earning grace - but living in harmony with truth.