

The Power of God

Have you ever considered what constitutes the true power of God as demonstrated on planet Earth today? It is a very interesting topic and one that many may find surprising. The true power of God may not be what you think it is. I would like to give an example from an Old Testament happening that at least points us in the right direction.

In 1 Kings 19:9-15 there is a story told concerning a “difficult” time in the Prophet Elijah’s life. He had just slain all the prophets that ate at Jezebel’s table and was running from the threat of Jezebel. He ended up on the top of a mountain with the expectation of having an audience with God; and, he was not disappointed -- the Lord “arrived.”

When He arrived, a strong and powerful wind forced the mountains “apart” and shattered rocks; but, “*the Lord was not in the wind.*” Then, an earthquake with shaking and moving of the earth occurred; but, “*the Lord was not in the earthquake.*” After that, a fire showed up which often referenced the appearance of God to mankind; but, guess what? “*The Lord was not in the fire.*” But, verses 12-13 states, “*and after the fire a still small voice.*”¹³ *And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?”*

Isn’t that interesting? God was not in the wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire; but, He “came” in a voice.

We know that it is recorded in Acts 2:1-3 that the Holy Ghost, the very Spirit of God came and “*suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind*” and “*there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*” Then, Acts 4:31 declares, “*And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. . . .*” These are very powerful sounding actions and I would be inclined to say that these represented the greatest demonstrations of the power of God; however, I think I would be wrong. Why? Because God has revealed an even greater “show” of His power.

***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***

I don’t know about you, but sometimes I forget that it is not always the strong, mighty or spectacular experiences that reveal the power of God. It often is found in the same way that the Lord showed up for Elijah . . . in “a still small voice.” The voice is often not “loud and strong.” It is often not what we would call earth-shattering. And, it is often not consuming or burning in action or intensity. However, what it does have in common with those three forces – wind, earthquake, fire -- is its ability to transform.

I can think of nothing stronger or more powerful – with the ability to shake, move and transform – than the *gospel of Christ*. I don’t know about you, but when I heard the good news of the Anointed One – the One who came to set me free from the power of Satan and the One who came to live within my heart – I was transformed!

I was only nine years old; and, though I cannot tell you the date, I can tell you where I was and who was with me. I can tell you that, though I did not look different on the outside, my very

nature was changed and I became a *new creature* in Christ Jesus – old things passed away and all things became new. Now, that’s what I call **POWER!**

What was it that I “heard” that made such a difference in my life? The preaching of the cross! The Gospel of Christ!

I understand that it is not a fashionable thing today to speak of Calvary – of the cross. There are people who want to do away with speaking about the blood of Jesus – the price He paid to purchase our forgiveness of sin and redeem us from the dominion of the enemy. If that is you, I hope you will come to a new understanding of the power of God and the need to hear about the blood and the cross.

What good would it have done mankind for Jesus to suffer all that He suffered and then die on the cross to purchase our salvation, if we never heard that He paid that price for us? No good whatsoever! Why? Because mankind would not have faith to receive that salvation – we would not know there was an “option on the table”.

Romans Chapter 10 paints a very clear picture about the need for the “preaching” of the gospel. Here are some of the truths the Apostle Paul points out:

1. We can not ask for forgiveness (and therefore salvation) because we do not know that it is available or that we need it. It is not possible to believe in or for something that we do not know is available.
2. We cannot believe that Jesus paid the price, because we have never heard of Him or the cost of the salvation we so desperately need.
3. We cannot know these things until someone tells us; and, therefore, we need a preacher – someone who can bring us the “good news” of Jesus and His salvation.
4. Preachers can only “preach” if they are sent by God with His “word” of salvation.
5. Only the “word of God” brings us the ability to hear the good news.
6. Only hearing the “word of God” makes it possible for faith to arise in our hearts, to believe the good news that Jesus, the Anointed One, died for us and purchased our complete salvation.

Yes, again I agree with the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18: the preaching of the cross does sound foolish – unless you are saved. I guess one could make a case for desperation at this point. A desperate man will take the lifeline that is thrown to him – even if it “sounds” foolish, silly, or absurd. I know I did! I think you probably did, too.

What does it mean -- that gospel of Christ? It means the “good news” of “the One with all power”. It means the fulness about all Jesus purchased for us and all He is willing to do for us. That good news is absolutely miraculous in its ability to change our lives forever! There is no power that can be compared to it. It contains “unsearchable riches” and “unspeakable joy.”

If you’ve never heard the good news -- here it is in a nutshell. Jesus died on the cross, washing us from our sins in His own blood. He redeemed us from the power of Satan and made the way for us to be translated out of the kingdom of darkness. He made us kings and priests unto God and His Father. And . . . oh, there is so much more that He accomplished; and, it can all be ours by simply believing and receiving. *“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”* (Romans 11:33)

I want to finish with one more transforming thought as stated by our Lord, Jesus the Christ:

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; ²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

²² And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: ²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

John 17:20-23

You got it! If we believe and receive, then we become one with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We are one with the Godhead! Colossians 2:9 declares, “*For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*” ¹⁰ *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*” **That** is the power of the gospel of Christ!

I just have to tell you that living as a new creature according to the power of the gospel is the most exciting, wonderful, exhilarating, and life transforming experience known to mankind. If you have received Jesus as Lord, but aren’t experiencing “joy unspeakable,” then remember where you came from and where you are now. Let His love pour over you again and be renewed.

If you have never received Jesus as Lord and desire to have that fulness of joy, I will tell you what I did when I was nine. I simply asked Jesus to come into my heart. Sounds foolish, yes? But, let me tell you, a new life became mine and it will happen to you, too. Why don’t you stop and do that right now. You won’t be sorry!

The gospel of Christ -- it is the power of God! And, there is nothing more powerful than that!!

Scriptural Supports: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 1:5;
Romans 6:3-10; Colossians 1:13-14; Galatians 3:26-29;
Ephesians 3:8; 1 Peter 1:8-9