



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 5A: Power

We have often heard that we use only a fraction of the capacity that God built into the human brain. I believe the same could be said about the power that God makes available to us. This power comes from the One for whom nothing is impossible (Gen. 18:14). It is the same power that parted the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21) and raised Jesus from the dead (Eph. 1:18-21). It abides within us and can do far beyond what we could even dare to imagine (Eph. 3:20).

The apostles, who had firsthand experience with the risen Lord Jesus Christ, were so filled with His power that they were able to perform mighty signs and wonders and saw many who were sick and infirm brought to health through it (Acts 3:1-16; 6:8; Rom. 15:18-19). This was merely an evidence of the power of God within them, however, and not the focus of their ministry. Their consuming passion was that those who were lost would be saved and built up into a harmonious Body that would grow in personal sanctification and the ability to expand the Kingdom of God even further. The power of God that enabled this ministry and effected such dynamic changes in the lives of receptive people is equally spectacular. We will examine this more specifically in our next issue.

Following the example of the apostles, we too must not allow miracles and supernatural manifestations to be the focus of our lives or our ministries. When we become enamored with the outward manifestation of power (Acts 8:18-23), we can easily become pawns in Satan's hands and be tainted by his counterfeit power, which can also perform miracles (Ex. 6:11, 22; 8:7; Mat. 7:22-23; 2 Thes. 2:9) and cause ecstatic-type manifestations that are capable of deceiving even God's elect (Mat. 24:24).

We must also beware of those who speak elegant words of piety that produce no positive fruit in the lives of those who listen. When one's speech is empowered by God, it will always result in lives being changed for His glory. This is what marks the true presence of God's power within a minister or lay person (Mat. 7:15-23; 1 Cor. 4:19-20).

This life-changing power comes through the Holy Spirit and is activated by our faith (Acts 1:8; 3:16; 11:24; 14:9-10; Mat. 8:13; 9:2-8, 18-22; 28-29; 14:28-31; 15:28; 21:21-22; Mark 10:52). Jesus clearly stated that all things are possible for him who believes (Mark 9:23). It is thus our lack of faith that limits the degree of His power that we experience in our lives (Mat. 13:58; 17:14-20). Faith is God's established currency within the spiritual realm. It activates His power not only to work through us for ministry but also to halt the enemy's efforts to hinder our sanctification, our prayers, or the fulfillment of God's calling on our lives (Eph. 6:15). We cannot live a life pleasing to God without faith (Heb. 11:6).

God delights in exhibiting His power through ordinary "earthen vessels" that do not stand out with any glory of their own so that the power manifest through them will be unmistakably credited to Him rather than to an outstanding human being (1 Cor. 1:27-31; 2 Cor. 4:6-7). Paul gloried in his weaknesses so that the power of God would be manifest in his life more clearly (2 Cor. 12:9-10).

God's power is also able to strengthen us with supernatural energy and endurance to perform all that He calls us to do (Eph. 3:16; 1 Thes. 5:24; Heb. 11:34). The weakness of our humanity is never an excuse for not seeing the power of God manifest in us (2 Cor. 13:4). Only our lack of faith is capable of limiting our work in the Kingdom of God.