

Words of Power

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the real problems we have as Christians is that we do not realize how much time it takes for us to gain ground. This happens to be true even when we are very honest and objective.

We know what we believe. We believe in the sovereignty of God. This means that we believe that godly people can get sick and still have just as much faith as another believer who gets healed. Paul wrote to Timothy this statement: "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). Godly people experience trials. We also know from Luke 4:18 that Jesus declared that He came to heal the brokenhearted, deliver the captives, bring sight to the blind, and take the Gospel to the poor. Christ set at liberty those who were hurting and bruised. He healed the sick. He cast out demons from many people. In Mark 1:27, unclean spirits had to obey Jesus.

Others were given this power as well. Jesus gave His disciples power to heal the sick (Matthew 10:1). He gave them authority over all demons and power to cure diseases (Luke 9:1).

The purpose of this booklet is to reveal the power that we have been given from the Lord. Much is made in the world about authority. In these pages, we shall examine the words of power God has committed unto us for deliverance, for victory, and for transformation.

Chapter One

SUBDUE SUBJECTIVITY

There is something that I have learned over my years as a pastor: certain people are never going to overcome their subjectivity. For some, it is really a religious exercise. A subjective person takes a piece of something and exaggerates its importance. Now, God certainly equipped all of us with a measure of subjectivity. Yet, some magnify the subjective—the part—far above the objective, or the whole, the sum of all things. Therefore, unhealthy subjective attachments are developed, attachments God never intended to exist among His people or with Him.

True subjective faith comes from an understanding of sovereignty, which means we recognize that God will do anything He wants in different situations. In other words, He doesn't do things the same way every time.

“And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the build-

ers rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

“Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

“And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.

“And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor” (Luke 20:16-20).

At times, according to this passage, righteous people are delivered over in the power of Satan’s system as it moves in human government. This can happen for reasons of persecution and attack, and it can happen to Christians when they do not purpose to guard their hearts. Those in the latter category are believers who do not internalize the Book, the Word of God.

Satan really wants to bind up believers and keep them in terrible bondage. Saul (who later became the apostle Paul after an encounter with Jesus) bound up believers. He was given amazing authority to persecute God’s people. For a

season, during the Great Tribulation, Satan's government will have authority and will attack all things that pertain to God (see Revelation 13).

The pressure that comes from these persecutions can cause believers to faint. Demas is said to have forsaken the will of God for the things of the world (2 Timothy 4:10).

Power Trips

John, the old gentleman apostle, the one whom Jesus loved, makes reference to Diotrophes in 3 John. This man wanted more than what God had already given him, and he was causing difficulties in the church.

"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

"Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church" (3 John 9-10).

Diotrophes had a problem with power and control. It was not enough for him to have the position of pastor in his church. He wanted John's power and authority. He was not content,

and he discouraged the brethren. It is always a dangerous situation when subjective people take on a measure of authority.

In Matthew 20, Jesus speaks of how the Gentiles exercise authority and rule. But He then says this: “Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

“But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

“And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant” (Matthew 20:25-27).

In God’s economy, those who want to be great must learn to be the servants of all.

Chapter Two

THE WORD: THE SOURCE
OF ALL AUTHORITY

“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

“And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

“And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

“The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

“ For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

“When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I

have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel” (Matthew 8:5-10).

“Speak the word only” is a powerful statement for us. This centurion, this Roman soldier, understood something about the power of a command. Jesus took note and commended his great faith.

Three Important Words

The Gospels include three important Greek words that Jesus constantly used in reference to power. These words are *exousia*, *dunamis*, and *megaleiotes*. In Matthew 9:6, Jesus said, “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.” “Power” in this verse is *exousia*, which speaks of capacity and delegated influence. This same word appears in Matthew 10:1 and Mark 3:15 when Jesus sends out the disciples with *exousia*, power to heal diseases and sicknesses.

First Corinthians 11:10 tells us that women have *exousia*, or capacity and influence, when they take care to submit to their husbands as it is fit in the Lord. Women who take heed how they hear, who come under the authority of the Word

of God and the godly leadership of godly men ,are women of great influence. They are vital to the furtherance of the Gospel.

The same capacity and influence is given to any believer who hears from God and answers his call to serve in a particular local church under a pastor-teacher. I am little tired of hearing that this power and capacity belonged only to the apostles. What of Stephen? He was a deacon, and yet Acts 6:8 says that he had *exousia*. He was full of faith, and God used him to demonstrate many signs and wonders.

The Power to Stand

In Luke 9:1, the power referred to is *dunamis*, the power of force and abundance. Here, Jesus is telling the apostles that they have power over devils and diseases. This kind of power is especially important to individual believers, as we see in 1 Corinthians 7:37: "He that standeth steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will."

Steadfastness of heart in the hearing of doctrine gives me *dunamis*. I have abundance from God combined with the force of my will, meaning that I can choose to resist the devil. With this power, I don't have to allow myself to be influ-

enced in the areas of pornography and promiscuity.

The Lord Alone Is Mighty

Megaleiotes is the last word for power that we will look at. It is found in three places in the New Testament:

“And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God” (Luke 9:43a).

“So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth” (Acts 19:27).

“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (2 Peter 1:16).

This Greek word was used to express magnificence and majesty. Megaleiotes referred to something bigger in scope and authority; it spoke of a perception and reality that went beyond the natural.

By His divine power, a power that exists so far beyond our natural frame of reference, Jesus

Christ has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. This is the magnificent truth of His majesty. Our King of kings and our Lord of lords has equipped us to live and to succeed in the purpose that He has called us into.

Chapter Three

THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS
OF GOD'S POWER

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what 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,

“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

“And hath put all things under his feet, and

gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

“Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:17-22).

We are to live in the epistles, the Scriptures, the oracles of God moment by moment. In these we find the exceeding greatness of His power. We see the words of power that speak to our forgiveness, to Satan’s defeat, to saving souls, and to our healing.

The Word of God gives us a supernatural inherent ability; it supplies capacity and wholeness for us. No matter what kind of day I may be having, the energy of God’s impartation is at work in me. These kinds of power are available.

Dwell on these realities and not on the way your mother or your father treated you. Dwell on these realities and stop deriving your identity from your job or your employer.

The whole secret to succeeding in this thing we call life is to recognize that God has given us words of power.

What is keeping us from victory?

Is it fear? Is it insecurity? Is it past experiences?

Perhaps the problem is that people just haven’t had enough communion with the Lord

in meditation.

“Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah” (Psalm 68:19-20).

“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

“And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing” (Psalm 107:20-22).

Live in His Benefits

The Scriptures were given for our healing. It is not through screaming and jumping up and down for two hours that people are healed. The Word does the work. The Word carries the power of God. He sent the Word to heal.

He daily loads His people with benefits. Daily benefits simply involve taking what God gives you and releasing it. He supplies. He satisfies. He freely gives us all things.

The Lord knows our frame. His expectations of us are not unrealistic. He considers those who fear Him and He provides for them.

The great problem for some people is just that they do not have their minds stayed on Him. Therefore, they do not have perfect peace and the strength that comes from Him (see Psalm 26:3).

When our minds are stayed upon God, there comes a great release. The power of the Word and the power of the Spirit bring deliverance and transformation.

CONCLUSION

It is extremely crucial that we understand that the power within us does not work unless it is in us through the Word of God. We have to exercise faith and submit to Christ in order to use this great power.

If you arrived home today and saw that all of your lights were out and noticed that your refrigerator wasn't running, your first thought would be power outage. Some people, I suppose, go home and sit in the dark and do not turn on the appliances that are available to them. They are people who choose not to use the power that is provided for their benefit.

It is the same with many Christians who remain stuck in different situations. The power and the words of power are available to them. The abundance and capacity of our majestic Lord is ready to magnify His Word and lift them up. All they need do is exercise faith.

Our God supplies all of our needs according

to His riches in glory. He loads us with benefits (Psalm 68:19)! So, let us be people who freely receive all that the Lord provides.