TOPIC: ANCIENT POWERS

Ancient powers alert us to the powers that God makes available to His people, so we will use them in the face of our situations today.

KEY POINTS

- Many of the problems God's people faced in the past are still with us today in various forms.
- We can look to the Bible for some insight into our experiences today. We find that what we are experiencing is very consistent with the Bible's description of the "last days".
- The book of 2 Timothy 3 tells of perilous, troublesome, difficult times. The scripture describes the mental and spiritual atmosphere that will prevail -- the attitudes and thought patterns and preferences that people will have.
- Paul talks about a dangerous condition that will even happen in the church. We will have all the forms and structures that relate to godliness, but not actually experience the power of God. This won't be because God's power is not there or is not available, but because we deny it, ignore it, and disregard it even in how we worship and live for God.
- But since times of old, God has given us powers that we can immerse ourselves in, call upon, and use to break and diffuse and destroy the works of evil all around us. Here are just a few of those ancient powers.

1. **The Presence**
   God has graciously allowed an immediacy and awareness of His Presence to fill our lives and infuse everything that concerns us.
   This Presence guided and provided for Israel through 40 years in the desert. It remained with them through victories and defeats and dispersion, through discrimination and destruction, all the way to the re-establishment of their nation and the worship of Jehovah in the city of Jerusalem.
2. **The Song**
   Singing is spiritual, singing is strengthening, and singing is victorious.
   When the apostles Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into a rat-infested dungeon, they sang. When we get to heaven we are going to sing a new song, the song of the Redeemed.
3. **The Prayer**
   We have the power to pray. And when we do, God works in a myriad of unforeseen ways, His wonders to perform.
4. **The People**
   It is God's people who attract His Presence, who sing unto the Lord, and demonstrate the magnitude of His grace.
5. **The Blessing of Unity**
   When we are together in unity God likens it to a spiritual anointing that perfumes a garment from the hat to the hem.

- We don't need to huddle and cower in fear as the world turns darker. We have Ancient Powers. Let's use them.

Key Scriptures:
2 Timothy 3:1-5, Psalm 78:1-11,
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Discussion Tools

1. What Bible stories or passages inform our experiences as they relate to God's power?
2. What prevents us from regularly using the power of God available to us?
3. Describe how the five ancient powers work in your life today.
4. How does our worship of God change when we recognize His power in our lives?

Notes

Prayer Time

Lord, allow me to use Your power in the face of difficult situations.

Life Group icebreaker: Describe your best summer memories.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2016
PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS/COMMENTS: