

SHOW THE POWER

The way I live must be a constant demonstration of the power of God at work in my life.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Although God has never stopped working by way of signs, wonders and miracles, we often speak of the lack of evident “power” in the post-modern church.
- ❖ Jesus promised that His church would do greater things than He had done (John 14:12). Since Jesus personally performed every *type* of miracle one could possibly imagine, we interpret His statement to mean the combined *number* of miracles to be performed by Christ-followers throughout the ages.
- ❖ However, let’s look at another application of the way this word ‘power’ is used in the Epistles.
- ❖ We begin with the story of a man named Saul. He was a highly educated, highly placed member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, as zealous a Christian-hater as the world has ever known (see Galatians 1:11-24).
- ❖ “But,” said Saul (now known as Paul), “God...set me apart even from my mother’s womb...and called me through His grace...¹⁶to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles” (vv. 15-16).
- ❖ Wherever Paul went, even before he spoke a word, a clear message was already being given. His life demonstrated a power that was undeniable – God’s power to change a life from sin to righteousness, from evil to good.
- ❖ He had a power based on nothing other than the life and death of Jesus Christ Himself – the power of the cross. This is a power that goes beyond serving oneself and enters into the realm of self-sacrifice and love – the greatest power one can have.
- ❖ Paul told the church in Corinth:
For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ²⁴ ...to those who are...called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:18, 24).
- ❖ He later also told them, in 1Corinthians 4;19-20:
...I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. ²⁰For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.
- ❖ Paul was speaking of the power of God demonstrated in the changed lives of Christian people. Clearly, the actions of the Corinthians was not demonstrating a change.
- ❖ That is the problem of the 21st century church. Not a shortage of signs, wonders and miracles, but a shortage of the demonstration of the power of God in the lives of believers.
- ❖ In many of our lives, the world is not consistently seeing the power of a godly change!

KEY SCRIPTURES: Galatians 1:11-24;
1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 1:18, 24; 4:18-20;
2 Timothy 3:1-5, 14-17; 2 Corinthians 4:7

- ❖ Paul told Timothy that this would be the case (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NASB):
But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power;
- ❖ But he also gave Timothy the antidote:
All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (vv. 16-17).
- ❖ We have power, through access to the Word of God and the Spirit of God within us. But it must be demonstrated in our lives for the world to see.
- ❖ What do friends and family say about us? Over the time of our Christian journey, has change been evident? Is it clear that we are different from what we used to be?
- ❖ The power we display must be the power of God, not our own power. The power we live by is the power of God, not our own power.
- ❖ Our power is not shown by simply calling ourselves Christians. We must consistently *show the power* of a changed life.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What is the greatest change you have seen in someone who turned their life over to God?
2. What changes have you seen in your own life during the course of your walk with God?
3. How do you receive/demonstrate the power of God on a daily basis (or do you)?
4. Explain what you feel Paul means by someone “holding to a form of godliness, but denying its power.” Take time to consider whether this is true of your life, to thank God if it is not, and to ask God to help you make changes if it is.

Prayer Time




Pray for one another that through your lives as individuals and as a group, the world will see the power of God in action.




Start-up: What is the strongest substance in the world? Strongest emotion? Motive? (Substitute other categories as desired.)

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)

 (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline