

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)

Volume 2, Issue 1

June 2004

Power Failure

Art Nelson

When we look at the acts of the servants of the Lord in the Scriptures, we see the Lord working with them and confirming His Word with miracles, healing, and deliverance. The power of God appeared to be manifested on a regular basis, even to the point that just the shadow of Peter would bring healing as he walked by. What happened to the power? While we hear stories of God's miraculous power "over there", why does the American church seem so powerless? Why has the modern church suffered such a power failure?

I believe that there are three reasons for the cause of our power failure. If we can correct these I think that we will see, again, the fullness of the power of God.

The first is the message. Jesus clearly presented the message that was to be preached.

Matthew 24:14 KJV

(14) And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Mark 16:15-18 KJV

(15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

(16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

(17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

(18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

It is the gospel of the Kingdom that is to be preached in all of the world. This was the gospel that Jesus preached; it was the gospel that He sent the 12 to preach; and it was the gospel that He told the 70 to preach. It is when this gospel is preached that the miraculous signs follow. We no longer preach this gospel; instead, we preach a gospel of

salvation, or prosperity, or acceptance, or health, or something else that falls short of the gospel of the Kingdom. When the King and His Kingdom is preached there is an immediate conflict between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness and captives of darkness are set free, which includes healing, deliverance and other miraculous occurrences.

Therefore, the first step in restoring power is to get the message right!

The second problem that results in power failure is the messenger. Most ministers are poorly prepared to operate in the miraculous, even those who are filled with the Spirit and who appear to be walking in the gifts of the Spirit. The power of God flows through His character. The essence of His character is love and it is love that activates faith.

Galatians 5:6 NASB

(6) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

When attempts are made to walk in faith and the miraculous without the motivation being the love and compassion of the Lord, the result is usually less than desired. Too many ministries try to use the acts of God to build their own reputations and kingdoms rather than trying to bring hope to the lost and hurting. Because God is full of compassion for the hurting, He will many times touch them miraculously in spite of the foolish pomposity and the egocentric show of the “faith minister”. These should take Jesus' words to heart:

Matthew 7:21-23 NASB

(21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter.*

(22) "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

(23) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Jesus is saying that while your mouth honors me, your heart is lawless. In other words, even though miracles were done in the Name of the Lord, they were illegal, unauthorized because the one performing them was lawless, i.e., an outlaw.

The Greek word for “knew you” is normally translated “know”; however, it can be translated as “authorized” or “recognized” and it is the context that determines which translation is appropriate. To me, in this context, the better translation would be “authorized”. So, the Lord would say, “I never *authorized you*; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.”

Even though the Lord has been given all authority (Matthew 28:18) in Heaven and earth, He only authorizes us to use His authority when we are doing the will of the Father. Only the legitimate use of the authority of the Lord will release the full power of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, the second step to restoring power is to get the messenger right!

The third problem area that results in power failure is the lack of intimate relationship with the Lord.

When Jesus sent out the 12, He gave them authority over all of the power of the enemy. They were to proclaim the Kingdom of God and perform miracles.

Luke 9:1-2 NASB

- (1) And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.
(2) And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

However, they still lacked the fullness of power to do all that the Lord sent them to do.

Luke 9:38-40 NASB

- (38) And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only *boy*,
(39) and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming *at the mouth*; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him *as it leaves*.
(40) "I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."

Mark 9:28-29 KJV

- (28) And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?
(29) And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Even though Jesus had given them power and authority, to do all that was necessary required an intimacy with God that only comes by prayer and fasting. In other words, their relationship with God needed to be strengthened by prayer and fasting. Many times we can become so busy "doing" that we forget that we need to maintain our personal intimacy with God.

Therefore, the third step to restoring power is to get and keep our relationship with God right!

If we will take these three steps:

1. Get the message right,
2. Get the messenger right, and
3. Get the relationship right,

the Lord will release His miraculous power through His servants even greater than He did in the book of Acts.

Help us Lord!

© 2003-2004 by Art Nelson and Lifestream Teaching Ministries
Previous issues of Present Truth are available on the website: Lifestreamteaching.com
For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:
artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com

You have permission to copy and distribute these materials provided:
1) no changes are made to the content, and, 2) they are not sold.

Removal instructions:

This is a free newsletter, without cost or obligation. If you have received this newsletter in error or if you desire not to receive "Present Truth" teaching newsletter please reply with "remove" in the subject area.