

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)

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Powers of the Age to Come [Part 2]

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In our previous teaching newsletter (Powers of the Age to Come [Part 1]) we saw that the Lord intends for us to mature—to move beyond the spiritual A B C's. We saw that the maturing process should result in us walking in the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:5).

Why did Jesus tell us that signs would follow those that believe (Mark 16:17)? Why did miracles accompany the work of the apostles? Why have miracles occurred at each new move of the Holy Spirit right up to the present day? The answer is contained in some of Jesus' words to the Pharisees.

"But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Luke 11:20 NASB)

Signs, wonders, miracles, deliverance, healing—these are demonstrations of the Kingdom of God coming into the world. Casting out demons is a direct result of the conflict between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness and testifies to the power of our Conquering King. These are some of the powers of the age to come.

Jesus tied receiving power to receiving the Holy Spirit.

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NASB)

The results of receiving power was that they became witnesses to Jesus. This doesn't mean that they received power so that their words would be eloquent or that their logic would be unassailable but rather that they could demonstrate the authority of the King and His Kingdom.

This was exactly what Paul did when he ministered:

and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NASB)

Earlier in my life, I sold medical computer systems. One of the things that was necessary for every prospect was the demonstration of the software. It didn't matter how informative, or how

attractive your literature was, nor how well you *talked* about the software and what it would do for them—they had to *see* it before they would buy it. This is what Paul was doing—he was *demonstrating* the power of the Spirit, which was a confirmation of the words that he spoke.

Today, not only do we fail to demonstrate the power of the Spirit, we don't even talk about the King properly. We say things like “just receive Jesus into your heart”. Where did we get that? Its not in the bible. We don't receive Jesus, He receives us when we repent! Not only have we stopped demonstrating the power, we have removed the power from our words too! No wonder our “converts” live such powerless lives, unstable, following every trick of deceitful men (Ephesians 4:14)

Why? Because we don't understand what it means to mature and walk in the powers of the age to come. Because we have stopped preaching the Kingdom of God. Because we have made the gifts of the Spirit venues for entertainment, greed, and self-promotion rather than instruments of the Kingdom of God.

Not only did Jesus link power to the Holy Spirit, He also linked the Holy Spirit to the Kingdom of God.

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ([Romans 14:17 NASB](#))

This is the only clearly stated definition of the Kingdom of God that I can find in the Scriptures. This verse describes a spiritual condition of righteousness, peace and joy that is located in the Holy Spirit.

This presents the Kingdom to us now in spiritual form. There will come a time in the future when the Kingdom will be on the earth physically for a thousand years with Jesus reigning as King. Meanwhile, we walk in the powers of that age to come by walking in the Holy Spirit. He is our earnest, our down payment, the surety or pledge for that which is to come (Ephesians 1:14).

I was a part of the early Charismatic Movement of the late 60's and early 70's. One of the key phrases from that era was that “He is alive!” or “He lives!”. I experienced the truth of this when I experienced healing in my body. Jesus is alive and He is still working today through the Holy Spirit. How do people know that He is alive—that He rose from the dead? How do they know that the future hope, which we declare, is true? By experiencing a demonstration of the power of the Spirit, by partaking of the powers of the age to come.

The Lord willing, the next teaching newsletter will be Part 3 of “Powers of the Age to Come” and will deal with the manifestation of the Kingdom of God and our inheritance. --Art Nelson

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