

## ***MORE POWER TO YOU***

It is amazing that having turned aside to the supernatural to follow Christ, we turn away from it to try and walk under our own power. In Galatians 3:3, Paul asks, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect in the flesh?" The infilling of the Holy Ghost, God taking up residence inside of us, was an incredible event of power. Why then do we set that aside when we fail to continue reaching out for the supernatural? The early church was dependent upon God for its sustenance, continued existence, and validity. God forbid that we should have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof.

Jesus is recorded twice in the New Testament as marveling. Once at their unbelief and once at the centurion's belief. It turns out that we can amaze God. We can do it with great faith or by refusing to believe in His power. He said that His ear was not deaf that He could not hear us, nor His arm too short to help us. The first step is to believe that God can do great things. The second is to believe that He is willing to do them. The third is to expect Him to. Finally, we must work with Him to do them. We are to be laborers with God. We work together with Him, doing it His way, with the natural and supernatural interacting. Sometimes though, it is easier to have faith in God using someone else.

Jehoshaphat's prayer to God in 2 Chron. 20:6-12, is an excellent model for calling down the power of God. Like other prayers, his was a place where two worlds could come into contact. His prayer was structured like this. He asked, "Are you God or not? (*I believe that you are God and have supernatural power beyond the ability of man*) You also have power over the heathens (*There is no limit to your power*) Remember the inheritance you promised Abraham? Well, we have a problem here that we are too weak to handle. If you don't take care of it, those promises are going to be a moot point. (*We have come to the end of ourselves. You can start any time now*) Our eyes are upon you! (*We are waiting on you*)" Miracles can occur when we believe. Romans 10:17 says faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We must then get out of God's way. According to 2 Cor 12:9, He is made perfect in our weakness. Then we can trust God for the perfect timing of His intervention.

Sometimes, keeping the faith is a matter of just keeping our eyes on God. When Peter walked on the water, he did so with his eyes on Jesus. When he began to look around, he noticed the size of the waves and began to sink. We do the same thing. We start off with our eyes upon Him, seeking His face. Then, with a miraculous new Life in us defying our old nature, we start looking around. We notice problems in the congregation, things we left behind that we might still enjoy, and the difficulty sometimes involved in living holy before God. The first indication that our eyes are in the wrong place is a sinking feeling. That's why Jehoshaphat said that their eyes were upon Him. If that is what makes the first step possible, that is also what makes every other step of the journey possible.

We must always remember that this church was born in power and is intended to leave in power. What death did to Jesus Christ is nothing compared to what Jesus Christ did to death. He is still the same and His power is still the anointing behind the church. The church in the wilderness forgot the power that had freed them. God killed off an entire generation while He taught the next one to trust in His power. Then they were able to use His strength, through faith, to accomplish His will. A similar fate is what we must ultimately guard against as a body of believers. To deny the power of God is to lose the right of this generation to claim the land promised to us. We will simply lack the energy.

## ***STUDY QUESTIONS***

1. Have you ever tried to accomplish anything for God through your own efforts? Sometimes we do this so that we will be in control of the results. Sometimes we do it so that others will give us the praise and the glory. Sometimes it is simply easier than using faith. We prefer to depend upon our own efforts so that we will not be disappointed by anyone. Do any of these statements apply to you?
2. Do you have trouble believing that God is able to do all things or that He would be willing to do them for you?
3. Do you find it easier to believe that God will do a miracle in someone else's life? Why not you? What if the person next to you feels that God has chosen you to demonstrate His power or compassion to?
4. The four central parts to Jehosaphat's prayer could probably be used whenever we need to petition God for a miracle. Have you ever tried praying that way?
5. Why does it seem that we usually wait until all hope in our own strength and resources is gone before we call on God? Is this His will? Does it please Him?
6. Imagine being the priests that were instructed to step out on a swollen Jordan river, bearing the ark of the covenant. How easy would it be for you to step out like that? To risk the impossible, in front of others, based solely on the fact that you believe it is God's will for you?
7. Did you have more faith when God first filled you with His Spirit or after an encounter with His glory than you do presently? What has made the difference? Have your eyes turned away from Him?
8. If we do not believe in and depend upon His power, what kind of God do we believe we are serving?
9. Does it frighten you to consider that God was willing to sacrifice a whole generation, millions of Israelites, to develop a people that believed and trusted on Him.