

## Power In Christ

- **I am glad I am saved this morning and on my way to Heaven, AMEN! We come to the House of God to sing about the praises of God & to worship Him & to lift up His name. But we have also come to open His Word so that we might be encouraged & convicted as we seek out the scriptures to speak to us & allow His Word to open our eyes so that we might live a better Christian life & determine to fight against sin in our lives.**
- **Today, I want to speak on a subject that I have not preached on a lot over the years, and it is a message that is needed for this time & this generation.**
  - I want you to repeat after me this morning ...
    - “I will no longer believe the lie,”
    - “I will no longer listen to the enemy,”
    - “Instead I will trust in Christ.”
  - You see, we are living in an age where the Christian, the redeemed, the blood bought, are living a defeated life b/c they have listened to the lies of the enemy, they have believed what others have said, and we have failed to recall & more importantly claim the Power of Christ that is in us.
    - You say, “But Pastor, you don’t understand the situation I am in.”
    - “You don’t understand the difficulties I am facing.”
    - “The temptations and the attacks are just overwhelming right now in my life.”
  - And no doubt as you sit here this morning, some of you may be facing personal attacks, physical attacks, mental attacks, or even spiritual attacks. But what we have to remember as a child of God is that we have the privilege & the right to claim the Power of Christ in our lives.
- **The world is living a defeated life today b/c they are looking for power in themselves to find happiness, achieve success, and bring contentment to their lives. This is a losing battle unless they come to the Power of Christ in their own lives.**
  - As followers of Christ, we have a great responsibility to fight against sin & this morning I want to remind us of the great power that we have in Christ, not b/c of who we are, but b/c of Who He is.
    - I bring this up b/c as Christians, maybe even you here this morning, you are running on empty or perhaps you are out of gas. But God has given you a source of power that will never run out.
    - J. Vernon McGee tells of one New Year's Day, in a Tournament of Roses parade, a beautiful float suddenly sputtered and quit. It was out of gas. The whole parade was held up until someone could get a can of gas. The amusing thing was this float represented the Standard Oil Company. With its vast oil resources, its truck was out of gas.
  - Many times Christians are some of the weakest individuals I know of & they complain about living the Christian life, how difficult it is & how Satan seems to be constantly before them & many Christians today are ALLOWING Satan to win simply b/c they are putting up NO fight whatsoever. Some Christians are losing the battles in their life b/c they are unwilling to trust in the power of Christ in their lives & claim the power of Christ.

) God has not called us to live a “super spiritual” life & to defeat Satan on our own; but what He has given us is the power to withstand & turn against the temptations of Satan THROUGH Jesus Christ.

- **Listen, have you ever avoided people that you felt uncomfortable around or you didn't want to listen to what they had to say?**
  - People at the booths in the mall.
  - Salesman in the neighborhood.
  - Co-worker who constantly has a foul mouth & uses vulgar language.
  - The family member who is always negative.
  - There might even be some unsaved people who don't like being around you b/c you are always talking about how good God is & how much you love your church, etc., right?
- **Well let me tell you this, Satan is uncomfortable around the Christian who consistently lives the Christian life & relies on the power of God in their life. Not only does he feel uncomfortable around them, the Bible tells us that he will flee from them.**
- **What are these special powers that cause Satan to flee? What are these special powers that can give every Christian a victorious & fruitful Christian life?**

## **I. The Power Of The Name Of Jesus Christ**

### **a. Healing In The Name**

- i. Acts 3:1-6
- ii. Peter & John are minding their own business on their way to the temple one day & they pass a lame man who was begging for some money.
  - 1. Many times this happens to us & we shrug people off or throw them a few dollars.
  - 2. But look at what Peter does. He is just honest with him & says, “Look buddy, we don't have any money, but what we do have is worth more than money can buy. Do you mind if we share Jesus with you?”
  - 3. And behold, Peter tells the man, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And immediately the man was healed.
- iii. Listen to me this morning, there is healing in the name of Jesus. We can trust in Him!
  - 1. Whether its physical conditions.
  - 2. Emotional scars.
  - 3. Financial situations.
  - 4. Spiritual conditions. Whatever it is, we can find healing in the name of Jesus!

### **b. Promises In The Name**

- i. Have you ever wondered as you read about this miracle how in the world Peter & John could be so bold as tell this man to get up & walk? I mean that took extraordinary faith on their part, right? True, but more importantly they were trusting in the promises of God & His power, not on their own to heal this man. God had already made them a promise.
  - 1. John 16:23-24 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

- ii. That same promise has been made to you & me as well and the Bible is filled with some of the most powerful & comforting promises that you & I can trust God in.
  1. Hebrews 13:5 – He will never leave us nor forsake us.
  2. Psalm 121:7-8 – He will protect us from harm.
  3. I John 1:9 – He will forgive our sins.
  4. James 1:5 – He promised to give us wisdom if we would ask.
  5. Deuteronomy 31:8 – He promised to calm our fears.
  6. John 14:21 – He promised to love us.
  7. Philippians 4:19 – He promised to supply all of our needs.
  8. John 5:24 – He promised not to pass condemnation on those that accept Him.
  9. Romans 10:9 – If we will confess Him as Lord, we WILL be saved.
  10. John 14:3 – He promises us that He is coming again.

**c. Power In The Name**

- i. The name of Jesus bears our respect & honor because of the power that it possesses.
  1. Philippians 2:9-11 – “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- ii. The name of Jesus is a constant reminder to Satan that he is defeated, Christ has won the battle over death, hell & the grave through His resurrection. Satan knows that one day soon he and all his demons will be bound & cast into the lake of fire for eternity.

**II. The Power Of The Blood Of Jesus Christ**

**a. Our Gateway To The Throne**

- i. Do you realize if it were not for the blood of Christ that was shed for us on Calvary’s cross, we could not come before the throne of God in prayer? That’s the kind of power His blood has.
  1. Matthew 27:50-51 – “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;”
  2. Up until this time, priests had to enter into the Holy of Hollies once a year on behalf of others. No man could dare come before a Holy God.
  3. But thanks be unto God, when Jesus cried, “It is finished”, not only did that include His mission on this earth & the price for our sins, it also bridged a gap between us & the Father through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- ii. We have the privilege to go to our Heavenly Father in prayer when we accept the blood of Jesus Christ. This is only done through a relationship with Christ which Satan does not have.

**b. Our Source Of Forgiveness & Eternal Life**

- i. Throughout history, the blood sacrifice has been an important part of repentance & forgiveness of sins.
  1. In the Garden, Adam & Eve had to be clothed when they sinned against God through the sacrifice of an animal.

2. When the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land, God required them to put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their homes.
3. And when Jesus Christ gave of His life on Calvary's cross, that was the final sacrifice for atonement.
  - a. By His shed blood, Jesus purchased mankind's forgiveness from sins.
  - b. In dying for our sins, Jesus dealt a devastating & mortal blow to Satan & at that moment, Satan was defeated.
- ii. But it is also through the shedding of blood that we can have eternal life with Him.
  1. John 17:1-3 – "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."
  2. Ephesians 1:7 – "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

### **III. The Power Of The Word Of God**

#### **a. It Brings Salvation**

- i. Thank God for the Gospel message. There is no sweeter message ever been written than the Gospel message & the power that it has to transform lives.
  1. Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
  2. I Corinthians 1:18 – "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."
- ii. We cannot attain salvation through memberships, good works or any other book. It is only through the Word of God that salvation has been delivered unto us.

#### **b. It Brings Protection**

- i. In Matthew 4 when Jesus was being tempted by Satan, he used the Word of God to defend Himself against the temptations of Satan.
  1. Jesus was at his weakest point physically he had been to this point.
  2. Satan comes before Jesus offering Him something He already possessed for something that would go against Who He was & what God's Word stood for.
  3. Each time Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus responded with the Word of God.
    - a. He didn't have time to contemplate an answer.
    - b. He didn't have time to call the disciples & get their opinion.
    - c. Instead, He quoted scripture and the power of scripture was enough in defeating Satan.
- ii. If that method was good enough for Jesus, it ought to be good enough for us.
  1. This is why it is so important not to just read the Bible, but actually meditate on it & "hide" God's word in our heart that we "might not sin against God."

#### **c. It Brings Change**

- i. I'm glad I am not the same man that I use to be, both physically & spiritually. When I knelt down & ask Christ to come into my heart, there was a change that took place in my life.

1. Isaiah 1:18 – “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”
2. II Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
  - ii. When you read the Word of God and allow it to speak to you, there is a change that takes place in your life.
    - Today, if you are a Christian, you may be going through some dark days right now in your life, but you don’t have to be defeated b/c you have the power of Christ at your disposal.
    - Maybe you are here this morning and you are defeated & your life is a wreck & its b/c you have never given your heart & life to Jesus Christ. Why don’t you do it today?