

I AM POWERFUL

March 2, 2008

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Ephesians 1:18-23

In Third World countries it seems that the women are powerless. What control do they have over themselves or their children when caught up in poverty? Even those who work don't take home enough money to make ends meet. Given these women's external circumstances it is no wonder they feel powerless. We ourselves know how it feels to be powerless. We feel powerless as we try to pay too many bills with too little money. We feel powerless as we struggle to be good Christians and love everyone like we should. We feel powerless trying to fight our addictions. What is it that makes you feel powerless? When you feel powerless you feel like there is no hope. You don't care what happens to you or to anybody else. We assess power based on the nature of the powerful people in our world. We think of powerful people as those with military might that have the ability to crush other nations. When we think of powerful people we think of those who command our attention.

You may feel that you have no control over your current circumstance, the choices you make, and what happens to you. However, as a Christian you are still powerful. You are powerful because of who you are on the inside. It is God's desire that we know Him deeper. It is God's desire that we have hope. We have been called to hope. We were called by grace. We have a holy calling; and we have hope because of that holy calling. **1 Peter 1:9** Some of you came to church without hope. You didn't know how you would make it today. **1 Corinthians 2:9** Hope will wake you up in the morning. Hope will make you dance when there is no music. Hope will show up in your worst time to tell the devil and bad times to go back to Hell. Hope will not disappoint us because the love of God is in our hearts. We ought to have a living hope that should never end. When we weren't saved we were without hope. However, now that we are in Christ Jesus we have hope. We are God's inheritance.

In the riches of His glorious inheritance are the saints. God thinks of us as His inheritance because of all He has deposited in us. **Jeremiah 29:11** We are valuable to Him. It doesn't matter what others think of you or how they treat you. You have to know who you are and whose you are. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. God says you have been redeemed. God says you are powerful; and you must believe that. He wants you to live for His glory. **1 Corinthians 10:31** When people see us they ought to see how awesome our God is. Once you become clear about who you are and whose you are you will begin to walk differently. People ought to be able to tell you are God's child just by the way you walk. When you realize you are powerful you have to act differently. Don't be arrogant or cocky. **2 Chronicles 7:14** When you walk in the room, heads should turn due to your confidence [in God].

Power is also being fearless and courageous. As humans, our power usually depends on our resources. We get frustrated because we try to operate in our own power. However, God has given us His power. He freely gives His power to all who are in Him. What makes us powerful is who we have on the inside. It is not about your money, house, or car. **Acts 1:8**

We know how the disciples felt when Jesus was preparing to leave them. Life can be tough. Sometimes when life appears to be going right a storm shows up; and it seems when it rains it pours. You can't seem to get through one storm before another one shows up. Jesus told the disciples that if he didn't leave the Holy Spirit couldn't come and they needed the Holy Spirit to come. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us to give us power. **Acts 1:4** The Holy Spirit comes to give us what we need. You are powerful whether you feel like it or not. God's power is like a strong steady motor that keeps us going from day to day. We dare not neglect this power. Unfortunately, some of us do because of our ignorance. In the text, Paul was referring to the divine, dynamic, energy available in us.

The word strength is kratos. It is strength that prevails and conquers. **Philippians 4:13** This strength is strength that can level any mountain. **Romans 8:35, 37** With the power of God in your life, you are gaining control of your emotions, attitude, and anger. When you have this kind of power, you are in control. We need this power because we have enemies who have come to steal, kill, and destroy. **Isaiah 54:17** No evil word spoken against you can affect you because with God's power you can just shake it off. God wants to do great and awesome things in you. Who is holding us up? What is the greatest hindrance to the Spirit's power? It is unbelief. **Matthew 13:57-58** You have been asking God to pay off your mortgage but you don't believe. **Romans 10:17**

Matthew 17 Jesus was operating with the same power we have. It was the same power that came to him by the Holy Spirit when he was baptized. How much faith do we need? We need the same amount as the size of a mustard seed. God gives us mustard seed faith so what are you doing with your power? You are ignoring it because you have not remained connected to the source. More fasting and more prayer equal more power. Little fasting and little prayer equal little power. No fasting and no prayer equal no power. What's holding you back? Why not surrender to the Spirit's anointing and power so that you can you be filled up? You have to empty of self before God can fill you. That's what consecration is all about.

Peace.

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