

## POWER BEYOND YOUR OWN

May 31, 2009

Pastor Cynthia L. Hale

Acts 1:1-8

*If you have the Holy Ghost, then you have power. Act like you have power.*

Anyone who is honest with themselves realizes that it is a bit overwhelming to think about the call God has on our lives. He has given us, as the church, a vision to impact and transform this present world into the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the will of God. It is so daunting to us to try to establish God's rule in other people's lives. That is because we haven't truly surrendered to God ourselves. What is so hard about giving yourself wholeheartedly to God? God has delivered you. Where would you be without God?

We live in a world where anything goes. Corporate executives are stealing money. Companies are declaring bankruptcy. People are losing their homes and/or jobs. Preachers and teachers are molesting children. We live in a world where spirituality doesn't necessarily mean Christianity. Some may argue that this is a difficult time to be a Christian and a church. This is not true. This is the time we need it the most. This world needs to know that there is a Savior. They need Him. There is a God-shaped hole in our souls that only He can fill. People out in the world don't know that they need God. God is sending us to show them but some of us just don't want to go. Things in our world are so out of control that we wonder if we can even make a change in someone else's life. However, if we are driven by God's limitless power, nothing is impossible. You will change the lives of those with whom you come in contact and no one can stop you.

We tend to slip into a doubting posture. One minute we believe and the next we don't. You ask God to help your unbelief especially when you are going through a difficult time and don't see your way out. We struggle to keep believing. You believe but only just for a little while. For instance, you believe in God for the first few months you are laid off but don't let it go beyond those few months. That's when you really begin to struggle with your trust in God. God is patient with us. He knows when we need a little convincing. He knows when we need a personal encounter with Him so that we are clear that it is Him. God always comes through. He provides for us even when our faith is shaky and our backs are against the wall. He takes control even when we don't want to give it up. **Ephesians 3:20** God does this because He needs us to mature. He needs you to trust Him without question so that you can carry on the mission to which He has called you. You don't have to do it by yourself. There are more people with you than against you.

Many of us voted for President Obama because of the change he promised. People think that if we resolve the war and better the economy, this crisis in our world would be resolved. However, the

nature of the crisis in our world isn't just about the external matters currently happening. The change that is really needed is the change in the hearts of people. It is an internal change that only God can bring. This can only happen when Jesus takes the throne of their lives. If they don't know that Jesus Christ is Savior, tell them about him. Don't worry about when the kingdom will be established. You just get busy establishing it. Some of us are so focused on the future we can't concentrate on the tasks at hand. When we do that, we miss out on the blessings God provides for us on a daily blessing.

We have made it all about us. We came to God so we can see what we can get out of it. We come to church to get our praise on and get our needs met. In the text, Jesus promised power to his disciples. That power is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. It is supernatural. You cannot allow the status quo to continue and watch people go to Hell. This power allows us to be more than conquerors in all areas of our lives. **Romans 15:13** When you are dealing with people and situations that make you want to give up, that power provides you patience and endurance. This power allows you to stand up against Satan and resist his temptations. This power gives you peace and joy. This power will confront mess and not accept it any longer. This power is the kind of power that is in you.

The ultimate use of this power is to witness. Witness is telling someone else what you have seen and heard. It is not what you think; it is what you know. God turned your mourning into dancing. He's given you a reason to live. You need to tell someone else. They need to know that they can go through it and survive. In the text, the disciples prayed in the Upper Room for power. The power was so irresistible they couldn't keep their mouths shut. It was like a fire inside of them that they couldn't keep to themselves. They even went to Samaria where the people they couldn't stand lived. They had to witness. It wasn't easy. They were rejected, beaten, and jailed. It is not going to be easy witnessing. People aren't going to want to hear what you have to say. They will try to shut you down. Powers and principalities are hovering in the air trying to stop you. However, we have to continue to witness and bind the hand of the enemy. Praise confuses the enemy especially when you are going through.

Sometimes we question whether or not we have any real influence in the world. Can we really penetrate the hard hearts of men and women? If we are depending on our own strength and methods, we don't stand a chance. However, if we depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do it because nothing is impossible. When you have the power of the Holy Ghost living in you, you have everything you need.

Peace

The full transcript of this message and others is available on cassette, CD and DVD  
at  
[www.RayofHope.org](http://www.RayofHope.org)