

A word on the power of God

Much is said about the power of God versus the power of man. Christians especially then point the finger at the church and 'accuse' the church of being powerless. Let's leave the church out of this for a moment. May I ask: Is the power of God present and visible in *your* life? This is the more important question. God's power comes through Jesus' words; when we believe them and live our lives by following His commands accordingly. It comes when people fear God more than people. The power of God comes when I confess my own sins and stop unceasingly pointing out all the sins of others. The power of God comes when I learn to place my own life under the control of the Holy Spirit and obey Him strictly and radically. The power of God becomes visible firstly when someone lives in brokenness before God. The power of God is there where there is conviction of sin that leads to the person being cleansed of that sin which consequently leads to a holy life. There is no power of God without a holy life.

Let us first of all seek God Himself. When we seek God Himself, His power is a 'fringe benefit' of our life in Him. However, there is too much focus on these fringe benefits of God's power. There is no power without God. God Himself is the power. Remember: the power is never *our* power. It is God's power working through us. Too many people think the power is in them or from within themselves, that they possess power. No, the power of God is solely the power of God when God works through us Himself. And for God to work through us, requires that we die to ourselves, our will, opinions and emotions; that we will get out of the way so that God can work through us, unhindered.

Today people make many assumptions when they talk about revival and the power of God, but too often there are no tears, no conviction of sin, no brokenness or a holy life and the fear of God. Too often we see puffed up, pretentious people, who are 'strong' in themselves, know-alls, full of self-confidence (self-confidence which is in fact confidence in themselves). To have a good time in church, to praise and worship only to satisfy the flesh while it leaves us unchanged and discontented when we go home, has little to do with the power of God.

One of the biggest problems is that we think God is there only for us, that in fact, everything is actually all about us. No, it is all about God. It is not about my healing, my prosperity, my success and my needs, but about Jesus and Jesus alone and how He is glorified when I am granted healing, prosperity and success and my prayers are answered. We are so inclined to twist and distort life in such a way that everything revolves around us in the end. Spiritually we do the same. It is so easy to get to the point where we are the centre of the 'universe' and not God. We start viewing matters and reasoning about them from our own (human) perspective and not from God's perspective.

I read about the revival in Korea. The missionary who attended the gathering the evening that the revival broke out said years later, 'May God give that I will never again be present when revival breaks out. It is a terrible experience.' The holiness of God is overpowering when it comes upon one. We easily pray for revival and for power from God. But what will happen when it comes? Are our lives in such a condition that God can come to you and to me without His judgment destroying us because of the sin that is in us?

I want to encourage every Christian in this country to get the book by *Roy Hession, The Calvary Road* and to prayerfully read through it. The person who reads it, listens and applies it to his life, will see something of the power of God break through in his or her life. May God Himself teach and lead you through the Holy Spirit as you pray the next three months.

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