

The Demonstration of the Spirit's Power

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Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:4

1 Corinthians 2:4 (NKJV) And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

Introduction

Jesus did not create a "wimpy" church. It was established in power, and will go out in power. The same principles which gave spiritual authority and power in the first century apply at the end of the twentieth century.

I. Talking the talk

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (NKJV) But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 **that no flesh should glory in His presence.**

- A. Some of the "talk" in the American church
 - 1. Our obsession with success, education and prosperity
 - 2. The de-emphasis of spiritual experience - characterized as fanaticism
- B. Some of the people God has used - no "world class" individuals here
 - 1. Abraham - an obscure nobody
 - 2. Moses - murderer
 - 3. Rahab - a prostitute
 - 4. Ruth - a Moabite widow
 - 5. David - a shepherd, song writer and musician
 - 6. Jephthah - a bastard son
 - 7. Esther - a teen aged maiden
 - 8. Amos - a shepherd and gatherer of sycamore fruit
 - 9. The twelve
 - a. Four fishermen
 - b. An IRS agent
 - c. A seditionist
 - d. A skeptic

e. A traitor

II. Walking the walk

1 Thessalonians 1:4-6 (NIV) Brothers, loved by God, we know that he has chosen you 5 **because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.** You also know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord in spite of severe suffering.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Luke 10:17-20 (NKJV) Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

A. Ones who walk the walk

- 1. People with the desire of Elisha
 - 2 Kings 2:9 (NKJV)** And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "**Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.**"
- 2. People with the mantle of Elijah
 - 2 Kings 2:13-14 (NKJV) **He also took up the mantle of Elijah** that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 14 Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "**Where is the LORD God of Elijah?**" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.
- 3. People who have been with Jesus

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Acts 4:13 (NKJV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. ***And they realized that they had been with Jesus.***

- B. The principle of venturing in faith
 - 1. Taking the risk to expect God to do the miraculous
 - 2. Taking a stand on God's word

III. Prerequisites for possessing the power

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 (NKJV) but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 ***but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.***

- A. A commitment to know Jesus and spend time with Him
- B. A lifestyle of righteousness and godly living
- C. A trust in God's willingness to perform the miraculous
- D. A willingness to be a vessel of the Holy Spirit
- E. A yearning which motivates us to go beyond the ordinary

Conclusion

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 (NKJV) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, ***that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*** 8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;