Power & Purpose (Part 1) Keys to Spirit-Led Transformation

Saturday, 11 May 2024

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Power and Purpose - Part 1 Keys to Spirit-led Transformation

A few alternative titles for the message based on Romans 8:13-17, which emphasizes the power of the Spirit and our identity as children of God:

- 1. "Spirit-Led Transformation: The Path to Victory"
- 2. "Living as Heirs: Overcoming by the Spirit's Power"
- 3. "From Slavery to Sonship: Embracing Your Divine Inheritance"
- 4. "Empowered by the Spirit: Conquering through Our Adoption"
- 5. "New Life in Christ: Finding Purpose and Power as God's Children

These highlight different aspects of Paul's message: empowerment, transformation, identity, and inheritance.

Power and Purpose - Part 1 Keys to Spirit-led Transformation

KEY TEXT for TODAY

Romans 8:13-17 NKJV

For <u>if</u> you live according to the flesh you will die; <u>but if</u> <u>by the Spirit</u> <u>you</u> put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did **not** receive the <u>spirit of bondage</u> again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears <u>witness with our spirit</u> that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, *if indeed* we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Paul's message in this part of his letter to the Romans covers aspects of empowerment, transformation, identity, and inheritance.

The basis of all this is:

AS AN INTRODUCTION - HERE IS A FOUNDATION TO EXPLORE THESE KEYS TO POWER AND PURPOSE

1. God the father is all powerful

Psalms 62:11 NLT

God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times: Power, O God, belongs to you;

Isaiah 45:18 NLT

For the LORD is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. "I am the LORD," he says,

Jeremiah 10:12-13 NLT

"and there is no other.

But the LORD made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his wisdom.
With his own understanding he stretched out the heavens.
When he speaks in the thunder, the heavens roar with rain.
He causes the clouds to rise over the earth. He sends the lightning with the rain and releases the wind from his storehouses.

Jeremiah 10:16 NLT

But the God of Israel is no idol! He is the Creator of everything that exists, including Israel, his own special possession. The LORD of Heaven's Armies is his name!

2 Peter 1:3-4 NKJV

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2. Jesus was given even higher authority

Matthew 28:18 NIV

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Paul reiterated to us and the believers at the time:

Ephesians 1:19-22 NLT

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of <u>God's power</u> for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and <u>seated him [Jesus Christ]</u> in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is <u>far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else</u>—not only <u>in this world</u> but <u>also in the world to come</u>. <u>God</u> has <u>put all things under the authority of Christ</u> and has <u>made him head over all things</u> for the benefit of the church.

3. What Gods Supreme Power did for humanity - He [God] Raised Jesus from

the Dead Forever!

24 References in 9 different books / letters which testify to "God Raised Jesus from the dead by His Power"

Testimony only requires 2 or 3 witnesses God Says. But here are 24! And yet people still doubt or deny the truth of this

Acts 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 13, 17
Romans 4, 6, 8
1 Corinthians 6, 15
2 Corinthians 4
Galatians 1
Ephesians 1
1 Thessalonians 1
1 Peter 1
Hebrews 13

From these I will read 2-3

Again but emphasizing verse 18-20

Ephesians 1:18-20 ESV

having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

The detail of these references for further study:

- 1. Acts 2:24
- 2. Acts 2:32
- 3. Acts 3:15
- 4. Acts 3:26
- 5. Acts 4:10
- 6. Acts 5:30
- 7. Acts 10:40
- 8. Acts 13:30
- 9. Acts 13:33
- 10. Acts 13:34
- 11. Acts 17:31
- 12. Romans 4:24
- 13. Romans 6:4
- 14. Romans 8:11
- 15. Romans 8:34
- 16. 1 Corinthians 6:14
- 17. 1 Corinthians 15:4
- 18. 2 Corinthians 4:14
- 19. Galatians 1:1
- 20. Ephesians 1:15-23

- 21. Ephesians 1:20
- 22. 1 Thessalonians 1:10
- 23. 1 Peter 1:21
- 24. Hebrews 13:20
- 1 Acts 2:24 But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.
- 2 Acts 2:32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.
- 3 Acts 3:15 but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.
- 4 Acts 3:26 For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."
- 5 Acts 4:10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.
- 6 Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.
- 7 Acts 10:40 God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,
- 8 Acts 13:30 But God raised Him from the dead
- 9 Acts 13:33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'You are My Son; today i have begotten You.'
- 10 Acts 13:34 As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'
- 11 Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."
- Romans 4:24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
- 13 Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
- Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies

through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- Romans 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- 16 1 Corinthians 6:14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.
- 17 1 Corinthians 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
- 18 2 Corinthians 4:14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.
- 19 Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),
- 20 Ephesians 1:15-23 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.read more.
- 21 Ephesians 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
- 1 Peter 1:21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
- 24 Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

Source: https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/God-Raising-Christ

4. How does this impact or affect us?

Apart from Gods primary purpose in exercising His Power - to create a way for all human beings ever created in a womb to be saved (If those who have understanding accept this gift by faith)

This POWER and AUTHORITY Given to Jesus is given to "those who believe"

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of

the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Notice how it is <u>because of Jesus</u>, <u>who He is</u>, <u>His power and authority</u> and us being "IN HIM" meaning <u>He lives in us</u> <u>in Power and authority</u>
BECAUSE WE INVITED HIM!
Because we surrendered to Him - totally!

Colossians 2:9-10 NLT

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

We never have The authority of Christ without him or outside of him because outside of him, we are powerless and nothing.

5. Why has God established this order of things? / What does He Want from you and me?

To fulfill our purpose, created by Him for us, but only achievable through His power when we are letting Him work through us.

But more that just work through us, we can't hinder this purpose.

So it's important then that we also have to allow Him to work in us too. Or "on us" We have to be confident in who we are , that God is real and His power is supreme!

Extract "Wigglesworth Devotional - March 13"

"...In casting out demons, we have to **be careful about who gives the command**. Man may say, "Come out," but unless his command is **by the Spirit of God**, man's words are useless. You must be sure of your ground; you must be sure that there is a power mightier than you that is destroying the Devil. Take your position from the first epistle of John and say, "Greater is he that is in [me], than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4 KJV). If you think the power comes from you, you make a great mistake. It comes from your being filled with Him, from His acting in the place of you—your thoughts, your words, your all being used by the Spirit of God. "

Notice some key observations here

- a. Who is definitely in the person? Jesus
- b. Who Knows and does not doubt that this is true? The person themselves
- c. How? By Unwavering faith Jas 4.7)
- d. What else? The firm knowledge and belief that Jesus' authority is supreme and is therefore in us!
- e. When we command or pray this way it may sound ie the person is the authority -
 - Its the person's knowledge Jesus is the Authority and is exercising this as we pray
- f. What is the target of the prayer / what is subject to the authority? The devil and his demons and their out workings (sickness disease, possession, oppression and every kind of sin being manifest)
- g. Is all sin then the devil? Yes it is caused by his work, deception and acting within his

rights,

BUT

When those rights have been given because of us not surrendering, not dying to flesh, dying to self, unforgiveness, dabbling with the devil, being wise in our own eyes, and man many more circumstances

THEN

we or the person are responsible for giving these rights and the results of these.

Jesus give us hope just as He said to his disciples and the father for the demon possessed boy:

Mark 9:23 ESV

And Jesus said to him, "'If you can'! All things are possible for one who believes."

SO WHAT ARE KEYS TO

LIVING IN THE POWER OF GOD FOR THE PURPOSES OF GOD?

Here are 10 points I will cover this week and next week in Part 2 In no order

I have used the analogy of food and a banquet as Jesus often did:

- 1. Hunger the desire and need to eat
- 2. **Revelation** the understanding of why and what to eat
- 3. Regular diet the frequency and quantity of eating and specifically what
- 4. **Less junk food** knowing what not to eat and why
- 5. **Feast at the right banquet** Not just eating whatever your eye sees or your body or appetite wants (lust)
- 6. **Dance with right groom** who or what is the object of our affection
- 7. **Knowing where your food comes from** Knowing the Truth and source of our food / avoiding being deceived
- 8. **Knowing that eating right will be good for us** The nature of our Father/ Fathers heart that he will not give us stones for bread or snakes
- 9. **Knowing truth** God's word alone, Not any other source or opinion or expert
- 10. **Believe God** Really believe !! (Then is will be easy to act without worry, fear, anxiety, intimidation, etc.)

Lets look at the key text again for today:

Romans 8:13-17 NKJV

For <u>if you</u> [CHOICE!!!] live according to the flesh <u>you will</u> [CONSEQUENCE] die; <u>but if [ALTERNATE CHOICE]</u> by the Spirit [WITH CONDITION] <u>you</u> put to death the deeds of the body [REQUIREMENT], you will live [RESULT].

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did **not** receive the **spirit of bondage** again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." [FACT - Requiring us to believe and act on]

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, *if indeed* we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

So when we have made these decisions, God is not fooled - He knows who are His and who

are Not

2 Timothy 2:19 NLT

But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The LORD knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil."

When serving God, being a believer...

Is what you see determining your faith OR

Is your faith determining what you see?!

2 Timothy 2:20-24 NLT

In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you [Condition] keep yourself pure [Requirement], you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. [Result/ Reward/ Benefit]

[Warning] Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts.

[Could be: Physical (Including Food, Sexual desires, Satisfaction, Experiences - Drugs/ Alcohol, Gaming), Emotional - Status, Position, authority, manipulation

Materialism - Money, Things, Jealousy (wanting what others have)

Many more..]

Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

Again I say,

[Repeated warning - since many dont listen the first time or take long to change their mind or accept what God is saying or take long to YIELD!, and many fail]

don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone

[Especially and including Wives, Husbands, Children, Parents, Siblings!!!]

, be able to teach, and **be patient with difficult people**. [God, "who knows hearts" because He gave freewill, knew many would be prone to be difficult before they themselves yield]

Further

We are living in a time described in the Word by Paul to Timothy

2 Timothy 3:1-5 NLT

The Dangers of the Last Days

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will be betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power [of God] that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

And in this climate we need to still operate in truth and love and thereby have access to Gods power for His purpose!

There is a difference between being convicted and condemned

- Convicted is the conscience knowing that we are in the wrong / sinful or have sinned
- Condemned is the sentence we receive because of the conviction.
- Praise God when we get convicted of sin at any time there is no condemnation- but only if we are in Christ Jesus.
- However- if we leave some aspect on our heart out where we are not admitting the guilt from the condemnation, then the danger and the sad part is we think we are fine but we are dishonest so we end up retaining the conviction, and will therefore also be in danger of receiving condemnation!

SO In this climate and world of today - Lest unpack the 10 Keys to Power and Purpose

KEYS TO LIVING IN THE POWER OF GOD?

Here are 10 points I will cover this week and next week in Part 2

1. **Hunger** - the desire and need to eat

Isaiah 55:1 NIV

Invitation to the Thirsty

"Come, all you who are thirsty,

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without cost.

Notice God want US to be THIRSTY - HE does not make people thirsty

Deuteronomy 8:3 NLT

Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Hunger is a teacher!!! From God

Spiritual Hunger is key and is from God as this give us the appetite for Gods Word!

Deuteronomy 32:1-4 NLT

[God Speaking through Moses]

"Listen, O heavens, and I will speak!

Hear, O earth, the words that I say!

Let my teaching fall on you like rain;

let my speech settle like dew.

Let my words fall like rain on tender grass,

like gentle showers on young plants.

I will proclaim the name of the LORD;

how glorious is our God!

He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!

Continuing... Deuteronomy 32:44-47 NLT

So Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and recited all the words of this song to the people.

When Moses had finished reciting all these words to the people of Israel, he added: "Take to heart all the words of warning I have given you today. Pass them on as a command to your children so they will obey every word of these instructions. These instructions are not empty words—they are your life! By obeying them you will enjoy a long life in the land you will occupy when you cross the Jordan River."

This was prophetic - how we would now have today the full counsel of God in His word. How these are Life, after we cross the Jordan into our promised land through the Watrs of Baptism (and Salvation)!!

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:6 NIV

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Notice again - You ned to deal with this is you are not hungry or thirsty for God!

2. **Revelation** - the understanding of why and what to eat (comes by God and from God)

Matthew 4:4 NLT

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

'People do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""

Matthew 16:15-17 NIV

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

John 1:33 NIV

And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

Romans 3:2-3 NLT

Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.

True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful?

Galatians 1:11-12 NLT

Paul's Message Comes from Christ

Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to **understand** that the gospel message I **preach is not based on mere human reasoning**. I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.