

# What it Means to Live a Life of Power

**Introduction:** Today is Pentecost Sunday. Christians all over the world celebrate this 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter, remembering the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon 120 believers. The early disciples were filled with power from on High. It was the fulfilment of the words of Jesus to them in Acts 1:8.

**Acts 1:8** - *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."*

On the day of Pentecost people were filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues they had never learned, and Peter preached his first sermon.

**Acts 2:38-39** - *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

(Some 3000 people responded and were baptised. That is why we are also going to baptise people here today!)

I would like to speak to you today about what it means to live a life of power.

## Opening Text: Matthew 9:10-8

I find it interesting that when referring to forgiveness of sins and a man's paralysis, Jesus used the word '**easy**'. Both were, humanly speaking, impossibilities: paralysis and the forgiveness of our sins (salvation):

**Matthew 19:25-26** <sup>25</sup> *When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"* <sup>26</sup> *But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "**With men this is impossible**, but with God all things are possible."*

To Jesus both were not impossible but equally 'easy'. Miracles are 'easy' with Jesus.

### 1. POWER ON EARTH

**9:6** - *But that you may know that the Son of Man has **power on earth** to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."*

Heaven is no doubt a place of power. However, earth, is a place full of impossibilities. Thank God for power in heaven but that power is needed on earth! Jesus came to release on earth the power and possibilities of heaven!

### 2. POWER TO MEN

**9:8** – *"Now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God who had given such **power to men**"*

- People marvelled - marvelled at such power (AMP – ‘*power and authority*’)
- People glorified God
- People glorified God that had given this power to men!

A powerless Christianity does not bring glory to God. Being a man or a woman filled with the power of God glorifies God.

Without Jesus, we were powerless:

**Romans 5:6 NIV** – *You see, at just the right time, when we were still **powerless**, Christ died for the ungodly.*

‘*Power towards men*’ - Is it possible for men to walk in power? Is it possible for men to participate in such visible demonstrations of a power that originates in heaven, a power greater than ourselves?

Jesus said,

**Acts 1:8a** – “*But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;*”

That is what Pentecost is all about: receiving power from on high.

3 biblical words for ‘*power*’ in the Greek language:

- *Dunamis*
- *Kratos* (Eph.1:19-20)
- *Exousia* – delegated influence, jurisdiction and ability

God wants us to walk in power, but also in the same measure of influence, jurisdiction and ability Jesus had when He was physically in the earth.

**Mark 3:14-15** - *Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, <sup>15</sup> and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:*

**Luke 10:19** - *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.*

God wants us to be like Jesus:

**Matthew 10:25** – “*it is enough for a disciple to be like His teacher, and a servant like His master.*”

**1 John 4:17b** - *because as He is, so are we in this world.*

### 3. POWER TOWARDS US

**Ephesians 1:19** - *and what is the exceeding greatness of His **power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power.*

*Power towards us who believe* –believers walk in this power. This power is towards those who believe. We need to believe. This power is activated by faith!

This is power on earth, power towards man and power over:

#### **4. POWER OVER DEMONIC FORCES**

**Matthew 10:1** - *And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them **power over unclean spirits**, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.*

Power over demonic forces. We are the head and not the tail, we are above and not beneath. We are over them – seated with Christ in heavenly places (**Ephesians 1:22** - ... “gave Him to be Head **over** all things to the church”)

#### **5. POWER TO GIVE AWAY**

**Matthew 10:7-8** - *And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.***

This power was freely given (Amplified Bible: *without pay*). It did not come to us as the result of personal merit or personal effort or any works we have done.

Jesus commanded us to go and to give it away: to preach, heal the sick etc. We are commanded to do the works He did and even greater ones.

**Matthew 11:1-5** - *Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished **commanding** His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities. <sup>2</sup> And when John had heard in prison about **the works of Christ**, he sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

This is a power not to be contained within the wall of the church but to be given away. We need to see Australia and the nations of the world shaken by the power of God!

**Conclusion: Romans 1:4** says that Jesus was ‘*declared to be the Son of God with power*’. That same power that resides in Him, He poured it upon us, so that we too, might be sons and daughters filled with power. Without Him we were powerless, with Jesus we are power-filled. Jesus came and gave us...

- Power on earth,
- power to men,
- power toward us,
- power over the demonic and
- power to give away!