

POWER FROM ON HIGH...THE NATURE OF THIS POWER. Luke 24:49
Acts 1:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. The pleasure of realized power is almost without measure.
1. When we think of power we can hardly speak of it without great excitement. Power employed to save is a glorious sight:
 - (1) The power of the physician to heal the sick.
 - (2) The power of the surgeon in removing diseased flesh or bone ~~from~~ the body...life might be delivered.
 - (3) A greater power than these is here...the power of God to deliver from sin.

YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER...Acts 1:8

1. Where? In Jerusalem. Luke 24:49,
2. After the Holy Ghost is come upon you. Acts 1:8
3. From where? From on high! Luke 24:49

WHAT THAT POWER WAS NOT

1. IT WAS NOT PHYSICAL POWER.
 1. Not like that possessed by Sampson when he carried upon his back the gates of Gaza. This power had nothing at all to do with bone, muscle, and sinew.
 2. Men sometimes ~~have~~ ^{could} forgotten this for one time they felt they ~~stop~~ ^{stop} the spread of the gospel by physical force.
2. ~~IT WAS NOT THE POWER OF LOGIC~~: Souls were to be converted. Argument can not do this. Sheet lightnings do not kill...only flash and dazzle. Perpendicular lightning that has power.
3. IT WAS NOT THE POWER OF ELOQUENCE. Though eloquence is not despised.
 1. Words have power, they breathe, they burn, ~~and~~ ^{one} word may hurl reason from the throne and open the flood gate of passion and violence. Words fly about the world charged with electric fire and force. There is one thing words cannot do...They cannot regenerate a single soul.
4. IT WAS NOT MIRACULOUS POWER. They had this. Mat.10:8
 1. Miraculous power cannot save men. Men saw Jesus perform miracles, and still remained in unbelief.

WHAT THE POWER IS

1. It is spiritual power...the power of the Holy Ghost. It is that kind of power that Paul had in mind when he said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthening me." Phil. 4:13. It was the power of a living union with a living God. That promise is as much to us as it was the Apostle.
 1. When this power comes it must use...We cannot control this power...It controls us. We cannot use this power for selfish ends... It must use us.
2. Failure to use this power means: That the church today
 1. might be compared to the disciples before Pentecost. How it was:
 1. They were in the temple continually praising and blessing God. Luke 24:52, 53
 2. While all the time they were intellectually busy about times and seasons. Acts 1:6,7
 3. The disciples were sitting and waiting for that power to come. While we sit and wait:
 - (1) Our spiritual heart is weak in its action.
 - (2) When our spiritual heart is weak in action:
 1. The members of the body suffer.
 2. The members of the body lack warmth and vigour, and all we come in contact with feels and senses our lack of power.

WHAT WE NEED TODAY

1. When Jeremiah had been insulted and incarcerated, he made up his mind not to open his mouth again, and said "I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more Jere. in his name." HOW DID JEREMIAH FARE? "But his word 20:9 was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones and I was weary in forbearing, and I could not stay."
 1. Fire cannot be contained in one spot anywhere, any time without air and fuel. Fire is going to spread and subdue its surroundings to itself. We need to let our light shine and our lives ~~burn until~~ the whole world is on a blaze: With the word of his power. Luke 4:32
 2. As Christians, we should be the ones to set the world on fire with the word of God, while another is lighting a match.