

2

YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME

*The world can only be won for Christ
by the power of God*

Although the Great Commission had been given to the disciples earlier, **they were not to begin work until they were clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit.**

To make sure that the disciples received this power, Jesus had commanded them to wait in Jerusalem **until** they were endued with this power. They were not to begin ministry without it.

Even the disciples who had been among the 12 and the 70 whom Jesus had sent out earlier and who had themselves exercised the power of God in their ministry, had to wait. How much more do we today have to wait to receive the power of God before we begin to do anything for God?

The early church had to wait for 10 days before they received the power. When they began to wait, the disciples did not know how long it would take. Jesus had not told them.

They were to wait “until”. As long as they did not receive the power, they could not do anything because they had been commanded not to do anything until they received the power.

Their subsequent success in fulfilling the Great Commission was completely related to the power that they received. **They had obeyed the command to wait.**

If we really want to finish the task of the Great Commission, **we must ourselves receive the power of God** (Acts 1:8).

Let Us Do It God’s Way

The church in Malaysia has been trying to fulfil the call to win the lost for Jesus but has yet to see great multitudes pouring into the Kingdom as in the days of Acts. We need to go back to the word of God, see how it all began and do likewise. There really are no new plans, strategies or methods that we need to introduce. We simply need to return to the way Jesus and the early church did it.

God’s strategy for evangelisation is found in the book of Acts – wait to receive the power of God, then only begin to move **not by might or power but by the Spirit of God.** In following the Lord’s way, the early church turned Jerusalem upside down. They did it by the power of the living God.

They followed the example of Jesus Who alone touched multitudes with the power of God.

But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. (Luke 5:15)

And all the city was gathered together at the door. (Mark 1:33)

In the early church, even the deacons were filled with the power of God. When Philip preached in Samaria, multitudes came to the Lord because great miracles took place.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things

which Philip spake, bearing and seeing the miracles which he did (Acts 8:6)

Even Simon, the sorcerer, recognised the power of God and wanted it (Acts 8:18).

Every day, the early church experienced the power of God and saw the multitudes pouring into the Kingdom of God.

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. (Acts 5:12-16)

Nothing Could Stop The Early Church

When the early church was persecuted, they did not retreat. They advanced and everywhere they went, they brought the word of God. When threatened, they raised their voices in one accord to glorify God (Acts 4:24).

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:31)

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 4:33a)

When Paul and Silas were thrown into prison, they did not mourn and groan. Because of the power of God in them, they

were praying and singing hymns to God at midnight. Even the other prisoners were listening to them. There was such a power of God upon them that suddenly, there was a great earthquake. The prison doors opened. Even the jailer and his whole household were saved (Acts 16:22-34).

The power of God was so great in their lives that even the beatings and imprisonment could not keep them down. **The very same power that was with Jesus was with them and quickened their mortal bodies so that they rose above their difficulties and what they were facing.**

Paul never had the luxury of attending any conference or seminar to receive encouragement, motivation or inner healing. Most of us have not even experienced a fraction of the hardship that Paul went through, yet we seem to need more daily motivation and encouragement than the early church did.

Instead of looking outward like they did, most of us today look inward. We have our nation to win. We have the whole world to win. And we are able to do it.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zech 4:6b)

We all need this very power of God. The only way that the church can arise to fulfil the Great Commission is through the power of the Holy Spirit, not through plans, strategies and methods.

That is why Jesus said, **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

It is not unusual for Christians today to attend one conference after another, feel charged up for a while but soon find themselves back to square one. Although we have the privilege of picking and choosing from so many conferences, we

have yet to demonstrate the power that Paul did.

If we want the same power that Paul had, we need to wait until we receive the power. That was what Jesus commanded. Paul was so much in the presence of God that he was taken up to heaven many times (2 Cor 12:1-4).

To receive the promised power of God, we only have to believe, obey and wait, just like the early church did. Remember that Jesus Christ Himself, the Son of God, did not minister until after He had received the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus wanted to transfer this same power to His disciples, to enable them to carry out His work. That is why in John 14:12, Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

The disciples would do greater works because the Holy Spirit would now be working through each and every one and not through Jesus alone. All who receive the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father, would receive the same Holy Spirit power that had been with Jesus, that had raised Him from the dead.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Rom 8:11)

The Danger Of Denying The Power Of God

It is so wonderful to know that each and every one of us who are called Christians can experience and receive the power of God, not in measure but in fullness. **The same Holy Spirit power that was with Jesus is with us today.**

A Christian without the power of God is a weak Christian. Paul warned us against “having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof”. We are even told to turn away from such

people (2 Tim 3:5).

Without the power of God, Christianity becomes a form of religion. Then we will just be attending meetings, living an unfulfilled life. Many churches today find it so difficult to motivate their members to come for church meetings, much less to pray.

But Christianity is not about attending meetings. It is about coming to meet with God and experiencing God's power. It is about knowing the tangible presence of the power of the Holy Spirit. We will then see miracles and the power of God at work in the lives of the people. The sick in body, mind, soul and spirit will be healed, the oppressed will be set free, the exhausted will be refreshed.

True Christianity is not only in word but also in power. Where the power of God is, there is action. The power of God motivates Christians, stirs them and draws them to want to have more and more of Him. When the people are excited about the power of God and have something to look forward to, there will be no need to keep on encouraging and coaxing the people to come. They will want to come. They will make every effort to come because God is real to them. The church will be revived.

The 120 disciples who were in the upper room all received the power of God. Such was the impact of their experience with God that they willingly sold their possessions and goods and followed Jesus. Even the 3,000 new believers saved during Peter's preaching on the day of Pentecost did the same thing (Acts 2:44-45).

Today's Christianity is so shallow that Christians can only talk about how God blesses them materially. It is a sad thing that we have the power from on high which money cannot buy, the promise of God to us, but many Christians have not even

tasted this power. They are not even bothered to pursue the things of God, especially the promise of power given to us in Acts 1:8.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Col 3:1-3).

It was Jesus Himself Who said, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Even the people of the world know the importance of having power and they know how to fight for it. Many pursue power to get rich, to advance, to rule. Others pursue more riches to get more power. Some are crazy for power and will go for it at any cost. They will plan and strategise, spend time, money and energy to achieve their goals.

In politics, people will spend millions to get elected into office. Once they are voted in, they want to hold on to their power as long as they can, some even at the expense of losing family and friends.

If only their desire for power is directed towards God. What a blessing it will be to their life and to the lives of others. The power they seek is temporal and usually obtained at great cost but real power is freely received from God and lasts forever.

All we need to do is to wait to receive the power. Yet, sad to say, even Christians do not see the need to have such power. We have been so blinded that we do not even know what real power is all about. Many Christians can spend years and years studying, earning more degrees, slogging hard to get richer and

richer in that which is only temporal. If only they would take the trouble to spend a few days or even a few hours to seek God to receive power from on high.

Many Christians have forfeited their right to receive this power from God by chasing after the power of this world. What a pity. We have to shake ourselves. Let us reach out to God. Let us repent and begin to once again lay hold of the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ, a promise of the power which is so needed for us to live effective Christian lives.

I pray that this book will open your eyes to recognise what true power is. May the Holy Spirit stir you until you have such a desire to receive the promise that has been given to you.

People who have been hit by the power of God are never the same again. The power of God not only brings us from darkness to light but directs us away from worldly living to godly living, from loving the world to loving God.

The World Needs What Christians Should Have

Most people, even those who do not know God, want to experience the supernatural. They want to experience something that is higher than themselves.

Christians are supposed to have experienced that something, the supernatural power of God. We are supposed to freely receive and freely give that power. But we are not in a position to freely give when we are not in a position to freely receive. We are to be so filled with the Holy Spirit and have such an abundance of the life of God, an overflow of the Spirit of God, that we are truly and completely satisfied in Christ.

That overflow will enable us to discern the power of darkness. There is such a power of deception at work today. If we are not able to show the world without Christ something better, the enemy who is a deceiver and a liar will deceive the

people by offering counterfeits.

As such, we see so many young people, and even the old, in bondage to liquor, cigarettes and drugs, thinking that they can get peace and satisfaction from these.

What a shame. These are only counterfeits. I pray that this book will be within the reach of those who are seeking so that they will know that what they really want is not what has been offered to them in the market. **The real thing they are seeking for is true life, and that can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

A person can never really be satisfied without God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has offered us the true life that we seek. The power of God in Christ will set us free.

Once, Jesus was on a journey to Galilee and the Bible says, "He needed to go through Samaria" (John 4:4, NKJV). While His disciples went into the city to buy food, Jesus sat by the well waiting for a particular woman to come and draw water.

She had had five husbands and the man she was staying with at the time was not her husband. I believe that she was looking to man to meet her needs, trying to find fulfilment in man. She must have been disappointed when she married the first husband. That was why she went through five marriages until she did not dare marry again.

Jesus Christ offered her living water. He told her, "If you drink of this water, you will thirst again. But if you drink of the water I give you, you will never thirst again."

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:13-14)

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his

belly shall flow rivers of living water.

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (John 7:38-39)

This water that Jesus gives is the water of the Holy Spirit, the life of God, the power of the Holy Spirit. **There is no power in this world that can satisfy but the power of God.**

When this woman received the water of life, the Holy Spirit, she was so filled and excited by the power of God that she left her water pot, ran back to the city and began to witness, to bring people to Jesus (John 4:28).

Many people believed in Jesus through her testimony (John 4:39). This woman had not attended any seminar. No proper Bible Study had been given to her. But she had encountered the power of God, received the power, the water, and she never thirsted again.

No one taught her to witness but because God was so real to her, she knew that He had done something in her life. Something had happened to her. She was so liberated, set free and excited that she had to tell others about Jesus.

She became a witness because she had received the power of God from the Lord Jesus. That power attracted non-believers because it gave them true reality and fulfilment in life. It was a power that gave them what they could not find anywhere else.

Believe, And We Will See The Miracles

In John 10:10, Jesus said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**”

Let us rise up to experience this abundant life through receiving the power of God, the life of Christ that has been given to us. Jesus died to give us abundant life. But many Christians

are struggling not only to live the Christian life but also in fighting sickness and disease.

It really saddens me to see that although everything written in the Bible, the word of God, is the truth, many Christians in actual practice do not really believe and live by what the Bible says.

This is so evident in the area of healing. Christians can believe that they can receive salvation just through confessing and renouncing their sins and asking the Lord Jesus Christ into their lives. But they find it difficult to believe that they can receive healing in the same manner.

God Himself tells us, "I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Ex 15:26). Jesus is our Great Physician. Yet many Christians would rather pay, receive drugs into their body and suffer than receive the power of God, the life of God, that brings healing to our bodies.

Healing by God is free. Jesus had paid for it on the cross. It is part of the 'package deal' provided for in our redemption. Yet so many of us are ignorant of the fact that **we can receive healing simply by believing that on the cross, Jesus took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses** (Matt 8:16-17). We can by faith receive our healing directly from Him. It is in believing in Him and His finished work on the cross that we will receive healing.

There is such a deception that blinds the minds of Christians, such a sin of unbelief that needs to be dealt with in the presence of God. We need to confess our unbelief, renounce and reject it, cast it out and read the Bible afresh to receive faith to believe God for healing. **If you believe, you will see the healing. We do not see because we do not believe.**

Today itself, let us believe and we will see the power of God in our lives. We will see multitudes, including our

families, saved and healed. We will see the same power of our Lord Jesus Christ being demonstrated again. Let us together come against the spirits of unbelief, doubt and fear that so bind the people of God.

The same Jesus Who healed multitudes 2,000 years ago by the power of the Holy Spirit is still healing through us. The resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that enables us to live an effective Christian life and to be like Jesus. It empowered Jesus to overcome the powers of darkness. It is the power to preach, teach, overcome the forces of darkness and heal. This power quickens our mortal bodies.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Rom 8:11)

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power;

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. (Eph 1:19-20)

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. (Matt 27:51-53)

This is the power of God.

God has given us the power of His Kingdom. We can only effectively advance His Kingdom in the power and authority that He has given. And He has given us the power to cast out demons, to heal the sick, to be a strong witness, to carry out the

Great Commission, to perform miracles, to serve and to minister.

Only the power of God can draw multitudes. That is why Jesus commanded His disciples not to do anything until they received power. We can all receive this power.

Wait And Receive The Power (it's worth it!)

Today, we cannot be effective witnesses because we do not have the same power. Why? Because we do not have the patience to wait. Some of us may not even be aware that we have access to this power. Some of us may not realise the importance of having this power.

To most Christians, to receive power only means to speak in tongues. But **the real power that Jesus talked about is the supernatural power of God to overcome every power of the enemy.** Jesus has defeated every power. He has conquered every sickness, disease and infirmity.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8b)

The life of the Son of God in us will also enable us to destroy the works of the evil one in us. These works include every scheme of the enemy to steal, kill or destroy us in our body, mind, soul or spirit.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Jesus meant that the power He has promised we shall receive is the power of God in the person of the Holy Spirit Himself. It is a tremendously powerful promise. It enables us to win the world for Christ.

The power of the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom power of God, is a power that must be received. This power is not

YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER

automatically given.

Jesus said, "You shall receive." If you do not receive, you will not get the power. We are not to take this power for granted. We are to take it seriously because this power is the power from God.

My dear brothers and sisters, I urge you to come and earnestly seek the face of God, to receive the power of God. It is not automatically yours.