

Title: Power And Prayer

Text: John 14:7-14

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 14 beginning with Vs 7. There are notes in your bulletin for you to use as we study this passage.

Now, please remember that chapters 13 through 17 are dealing with (2A) THE INSTRUCTION OF JESUS TO HIS FOLLOWERS. These chapters are teaching principles of discipleship and Christian living. They are very important chapters from the standpoint of knowing what Jesus requires from those who claim to be His followers,

Dear friends, what is it that Jesus really wants us to believe and do? Well, He answers that question in these chapters.

(1b) First of all, we looked at chapter 13:34-35 as to a new commandment concerning love. (2) Secondly, we learned something about his SECOND COMING. Jesus is coming again. And he told us something about this place called heaven. and he he told us how to get to heaven. *He said 'I am the Way, Truth, and Life'*

(3B) Now, today, we want to look at the instructions of Jesus concerning His promise of power and His promise of prayer.

John chapter 14 --verse 7, ...((Read Vs 7-14))

PRAYER

(3B) Now, in verses 7 to 12, we find the instructions of Jesus concerning the promise of power. The promise of tremendous power almost beyond one's imagination. *Response in order to accomplish the last and great works* ~~Because~~ Jesus summarized these verses by saying in Vs 12, "Greater works than these shall you do." In other words, the one who believes in Jesus is going to do greater works than Jesus, Himself. Do you believe that? Well, I ~~hope~~ ^{hope} you will by the time we are finished with these verses.

Now, to understand THIS PROMISE OF POWER ~~there~~ ^{There} are three things upon which it is based. THREE WONDERFUL PRINCIPLES.

(1C) Number one, This promise of power is based on the revelation of the Father in Jesus. Dear friends, there is no power for us, unless we understand that the Father is revealed in Jesus. He is in Him. And Jesus is in the Father. All the attributes of God the Father are in Jesus the Son.

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And in some mysterious sense, the Father and the Son are ONE in essence, substance, and being. To see Jesus is to see the Father..... (Phase)

^{Vs 8}
~~That~~ is quite a statement. If you looked at Jesus in the flesh, the Bible says that all the fulness of God was dwelling in Him in bodily form. Every thing you need to understand about God is in the person of Jesus Christ. Philip said in Vs 8, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." And Jesus responded, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father."

Dear friends, I know of no doctrine that so effects those who are on the border line of christianity then the fact that God is both Father and Son and Holy Spirit. That all three of them are God. All three of them have the same attributes and abilities. And yet, they are separate in personality and function. , The Tri-unity of God is the one thing which sets christianity apart from all other religions.

Now, why is this important? Because the Bible teaches that God is in my life. ^{God is in your life} All the fulness of God dwells in Christ, bodily. And now God dwells in my life in the person of the Holy Spirit. So, in terms of power, it is based upon the revelation that the Father is in Jesus. That He is God. And now God dwells in the believer. The reason we christians lack power ^{in this day} ~~to witness~~ ^{and go} is because we don't really believe the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us.

When we really start to believe, and live by that belief, we will experience the power of God.

(2^o) Secondly, this promise of power is based on a recognition of His works and His words. Jesus said in Vs 10, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves."

The point is simple: No one could have done what Jesus did unless he was God...Right?....Now, mind you. There has always been the problem of false prophets trying to perform and do the same things Jesus did. But, in scope, in the extensiveness, in the totality of what Jesus did, no one has ever duplicated what Jesus did.

No one...including the Aostles who had some what of the same power.

John said in chapter 20:verse 30 that if all the signs and miracles which Jesus performed were recorded the world couldnot contain all the books.

Let me ask you: DO YOU BELIEVE THE GOSPELS WHEN IT SAYS ON ONE OCCASSION THAT THE MULTITUDES WHO BROUGHT THEIR SICK AND DISABLED TO JESUS, THAT EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM ^{was} WERE HEALED? Do you believe that?

You see, we only have a few examples of healing in the Bible. And yet there are little statements along the way that show us that Jesus healed scores and scores of people. No body was able to do the scope and totality of His miracles, accept God in human form. Namely Jesus...No one else.... Which makes this statement in Vs 12 all the more amazing. IN WHAT SENSE THEN, CAN THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS DO GREATER WORKS THAN HE? *How?*

(30) And that is the third thing about this promise of power? This promise of power is based on our relationship to Jesus Christ.

Jesus says in Vs 12, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me," the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do. You see, it is faith alone in Christ that results in the greater works. This promise, here in this verse, is based upon my position in Jesus. I believe in Christ. Therefore, I can do greater works than Jesus.

Now, greater in what sense? Certainly not greater in super natural miracles. Certainly not greater in the sense of HEALING...What person alive, be he apostle or other who had the gift of healing, what person allve could claim that he could heal more people than Jesus?

Dear Friends, it isn't greater in that sense. O.K. what sense is it greater?

Notice, please, what Jesus is speaking about. ? We Will Talk about This some more
~~He expands on in this same~~

ref. Sunday But Jesus is Talking about
~~se on. And that is~~ the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the believers in terms of the extensiveness and scope of your ministry in winning people to Jesus Christ. For Christ never in all of His life has wone people to himself, like believers have in Chruch history wone to Jesus Christ...

DID YOU KNOW THAT? ^{Think about it}....What our Lord is talking about is the witness of the believer. And that is why there is so much discussion, here, about the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in believers lives.....

Jesus did many miracles, but few believed. The sum total of all those who were told to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit numbered only 120. Very few believed. Yet, through His children ^{by} faith, through the body of Christ, the church, hundreds, thousands, millions have come to know Jesus all over the world. And, dear friends, greater works are being accomplished every day. That is the meaning of that verse.

Oh, we have tremendous power, dear friends. ^{To witness to love} Jesus also said in Vs 12, "Because I go to my Father, you will do this."

The point is: that He will go to the Father and then the Holy Spirit will come. And the Holy Spirit will indwell people. ^{And you will do this} This He never did before. In all the history of the O.T., the Holy Spirit never dwelt in anyone. But, now He abides in us. And He produces power in our lives that will result in belief. No more Priest to go through in order to reach God. No more prophets receiving direct revelations and telling the people what to do.

^{and} Now, every believer is ^{No minister} a Priest. Every believer is ^{An Evangelist} a prophet in ^{the} sense of declaring God's message in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The question is: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT FOR YOURSELF? That is the question. That is the issue. Acts 1:8 says "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the furthest parts of the earth."

^{But the issue is:} What a tremendous promise. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU POWER LIKE THAT? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU POWER TO DO GREATER WORKS THAN Jesus?

^{IF you do} ~~it~~. WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?... ^{you see} ~~And~~ it lies ready to come forth in the ^{life} heart of every believer. As each believer goes forth and shares the gospel with other folks. Joe sharing with Tom. And Tom sharing with Jim. Betty sharing with Jan. And Jan sharing with Carol...so forth. ^{That is how the church grows. That is how the Holy Spirit works.}

The Bible says about those early believers, even when their leaders were in jail, that they met together and prayed. And when they prayed they prayed for boldness. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit. And they spoke the word ^{to all} with boldness. And with great power they gave witness to the resurrection. And they were adding daily to the church all who were believing....

as christians

✓ If there is one great lack in our lives, it is our lack of confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit. To believe that God the Holy Spirit is indwelling us and producing His power to witness within us. Dear friends, it is there. And all we have to do is call upon that tremendous power.

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Concerning the

Prayer Power

The Instruction of Jesus

OK let's come to Vs 13-14. I would like you to notice the wonderful promise of prayer. This is ~~so~~ ^{The How?} great. Please remember, we are talking about the principles of discipleship. Principles that should be part of the Christian's everyday life. So, Jesus is now going to deal with the issue of PRAYER. The wonderful promise of prayer.

Vs 13 and 14 Jesus says, "And whatever you ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father maybe glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." OH, ^{Wow!} MY GOODNESS. WHAT A PROMISE..

There are three things- here, that I want you to understand about the promise of prayer.

(1) Number one, the pattern of prayer. The pattern of prayer. Jesus said, "Whatever you ask in my name." That is the pattern. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS?

It means to pray upon HIS AUTHORITY. When you have the phrase "ASK IN MY NAME" it deals with the authority of Jesus.

So, again, you must come back and ask: WHO IS JESUS? WHAT DOES HIS NAME MEAN? You see, Jesus is God. He is God manifested in the flesh. So, it is upon the authority of that name..that I pray. I don't know if God is speaking to your hearts concerning that phrase, as He is mine. But, I hope that He will. Because it is so important that we pray upon the authority of the person of Jesus Christ. That is a tremendous principle to apply to your prayer life.

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(2) Number two, we need to understand the purpose of prayer. Jesus said in Vs 13: "THAT THE FATHER MAYBE GLORIFIED IN THE SON." Dear friends, there is your purpose for prayer. When we pray..and whatever we pray for..it should be for the glory of God. God should be glorified.

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Now, as I studied this ^f began to write down what I was praying for. You know, I made this little list. And as I looked at the list I had a little problem of interspection. Am I praying ^{for} these things ^{on my list} that the Father maybe glorified in the Son? Hay, Man..there are so many things that I want God to do And I keep asking Him for them. And I notice that many times He doesn't give them. Sometimes He waits for a long period of time and then all of a sudden He answers in a tremendous way. Most of the time different from what I have prayed.

But, really, what is Jesus saying here? MOTIVATION...MOTIVATION..Why are we praying for what we are praying? You see, this text doesn't say what a lot of folks teach. And that is that God will give you anything you ask for. THAT IS NOT TRUE...That isn't true of a parent who loves a child. You don't give everything to your children that they ask for. You see, if you did, it would destroy the child.

Our Heavenly Father knows better than that. And He knows all the things we ^have need of before we ask Him.

So, that is not what this verse is saying. WHAT IS IT SAYING? It is dealing with purpose and motivation. That everything I am praying for, I desire that the Father would be glorified in His Son, Jesus Christ. And that does away with about half of what we pray for..RIGHT? Because we are not really praying that God receives the glory. We want "self" or maybe a program to get the glory And then we wonder why we see so little answer to prayer. ^{The purpose of prayer is to glorify God}

(3) Number three, there is a wonderful promise here that I hope you will not miss. ^{IF} If your motivation is correct, Jesus says in Vs 14, "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

Now, I don't believe we need to qualify the ^u "anything." Unless we qualify it by the following two things: PRAYING IN HIS NAME, AND PRAYING TO GLORIFY GOD. That is it, dear friends, You don't need to qualify prayer in any other way. .. "IF YOU ASK ANYTHING IN HIS NAME, I WILL DO IT."

Matthew 21:22 says "all things if you believe, you will receive."

Jesus said in John 16:24, "Until now you have asked for nothing in my name Ask..and you will receive, that your joy maybe made full."

Dear Friend

You know, nothing satisfies or brings greater joy to a Christian than to see his prayers answered. Have you noticed that? *I have*

And yet, if you have a prayer list, and you have been praying a long time and there are no answers, it makes you wander, doesn't it? It gets a little discouraging, a little frustrating, right?

Now, what a lot of folks do, instead of facing that issue, they stop praying... Instead of understanding the principles of prayer, what God is really promising. Christ said He would do it? The issue is: DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT HE WILL DO IT? ANYTHING? Regardless of what it is.. ACCORDING TO HIS WILL... You see, many things check off right there.

In His name, or, on His authority.. Many things check off there.

To Give the Father glory in His son... Many things check off there.

Do you understand? If those things are right ..there isn't anything that you and I ask of God that He will not do... THAT IS THE PROMISE!

Do you know what this does in my mind? It causes me to pray thus: LORD, GIVE ME THE CORRECT MOTIVE AND HEART TOWARDS YOU... God, help me to be right in my motives.. to know exactly where my heart is in terms of glorifying you, *and* ~~because~~ *in your name.* ~~the power and~~ *what* God's promise ^{is} is tremendous. There is no limitations.

And what I have usually found is that when all of that is right, your motivation is correct, what will happen is that you will kick yourself in the pants for not believing that God could do more.

You see, dear friends, God will give you just what you ask. God will measure out to you the limits of your faith. And that is our problem. OUR FAITH We don't believe God for great things, thus we don't receive great things.

This is so fantastic. I just pray that I can get you all excited about prayer. To believe that God could do abundantly more than you and I could possible ask or think. Dear friends, believe the power of prayer. Believe that God ~~answers prayer.~~ *will do just what He promises - That God will answer pray*

Let's Close in Prayer