

PLUGGING INTO HIS POWER

Key Verse: Acts 4:31-33

Key Thought: If we Plug into God's Power, He will Move in Our Presence!

I don't know about you, but I marvel at the power of the early church. It amazes me to look at the ways God used them for His glory. When you consider that 3,000 souls were saved on one day and 5,000 were saved on another day; that the Lord added to the church daily, that the church was marked by powerful miracles and larger than life personalities; that they experienced amazing growth; and that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, it lets us know that there was something different about the early church.

Most believers long for that same kind of power today. We know that we do not have what they had, but we want it. We know that we must have the same kind of power if we are going to be effective in reaching our world like they reached their world.

In some ways, we possess far more than they did. We have nice buildings, enough money to do the things we want to do, amazing technology, and the freedom to worship God as we please. While we have much in our favor, we lack the one thing that made the early church a mighty weapon in the hand of God. We lack the power of God!

I want to point out to you what I believe was the source of their power and help you to see that the early church was plugged into a tremendous source of power, and that source of power is exactly what we need today!

The early church was plugged into three specific *sources* of power that enabled them to “*turn the world upside down*” for the glory of God. The power that rested on the early church is

available to the modern church. We merely need to plug into the same sources of power they used in that day.

Let me show you, from these verses, the *sources* that empowered the early church. If we want to reach our world for Jesus, and if we want to be all the Lord would have us to be, then we are going to have to plug into those same power *sources* today. I want to look into these verses for a few moments today and preach about *Plugging into His Power*.

I. WE NEED TO PLUG INTO THE POWER OF PRAYER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

When the disciples came back from their meeting with the Sanhedrin, the whole assembly came together in prayer,

“On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

*“Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the ruler’s band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.*

Indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:23-31

As they prayed together, in one mind, the Spirit of God moved upon them and filled them with His presence and power. God honored the prayers of His people when they came together as one, praying for the common good.

I am certain that most of us understand the importance of prayer. I hope that each of us takes time daily to pray for our families, our communities, our church, and ourselves. Probably nothing we do in our Christian walk is as important as prayer. *Prayer is the secret to the power of God!*

We have been given great promises in prayer:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

We have been given clear instruction in prayer:

*“He said to them, “When you pray, say:
“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
³ Give us each day our daily bread.
⁴ Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”*

Luke 11:2-4

We have even been commanded to pray:

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:18

We do pray, but we do not often pray like the early church prayed. We usually resort to prayer when *we are* shaken; they prayed to be shaken. We pray, but not fervently. We pray, but not specifically. We pray, but not in one accord. We pray, but not as a group.

We are well taught in our theology, in our doctrine, and in our organization. But we are uneducated in the school of prayer. If we would have the power of God resting on us in these days, we must learn to make use of the resource of prayer. Not just as individuals locked away from one another, but we need to learn to pray corporately.

We must learn to pray together at prayer meetings, in altar calls, and at other times.

When someone comes to this altar to pray, others should willingly gather around them to help them with their petitions. When a need faces our church, the church should bow as a body and wage war together.

We learn to pray by praying. We learn to pray by asking God for the impossible and believing that He will send it to us. We learn to pray by reading the Word of God and praying it back to Him in faith.

The early church had the power of God on them because they prayed together. When they called, God heard and answered.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:31

God still hears and answers the prayers of His people! Plugging into the power of prayer would do more for God's church than 10,000 revival meetings!

II. WE NEED TO PLUG INTO THE POWER OF PASSION

We are told that the early church was of “one heart and one soul”. That is, they did not live for themselves, but they lived for those around them. These people were lost in the needs of other believers, and they were consumed by the needs of the lost around them. The early church possessed a servant's heart that was just like that of the Lord Jesus. In *Acts 4:32-33*, it reads,

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.”

· These people lived out the will of the Savior. While Jesus was here, He said this:

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another,”

John 13:35

Jesus said that His people would be known for the love they possessed for the other believers around them. He went on to tell us what His will is for the church,

“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.,”

John 17:21

So, when we love one another, as we should, and walk in unity, as we should, it lets the world around us know that our profession of faith is real and that we truly belong to Christ. No other testimony we give preaches so loud and clear as our love one for another. We need to plug into the power of love! Not just love that talks. Not just love that says, *“I love you.”* We need to plug into a love that acts,

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

1 John 3:18

We must plug into a love that puts others ahead of self. We must plug into His kind of love; without that kind of love, everything we do is in vain.

When I love you like I should, I will forgive you for the times you hurt me. When I love you as I should, I will seek your best interests ahead of my own. When I love you like I should, I will treat you like I should,

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

A revival of love in the church would produce among us the same kind of attitudes and power that existed in the early church.

Love makes us considerate of others and makes people more important than possessions! Love enables Christians to put away their differences. The early church was made up of people from all over the world, of different cultures and different backgrounds.

Love produces a passion for the lost who live around us, and love gives us power. Without love, we will lack the power of God we need to be effective in this age. We need to plug into the power of a genuine, all-consuming passion for others.

III. WE NEED TO PLUG INTO THE POWER OF PROCLAMATION

While the early church was marked by prayer and love, they were also marked by the proclamation of the Gospel. They were people who loved to preach, and carried the message of the Gospel to a world that desperately needed that message.

Acts 4:33 tells us that “*great power*” rested on the apostles. Their preaching and their witness was effective because God empowered their preaching and He blessed the proclamation of the Gospel.

The modern church must be marked by prayer and love, but we must also be marked by the proclamation of the Gospel of grace. We have been given the greatest message the world has ever known, and we have been sent out to preach that message everywhere!

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

There is a whole world around us that needs to hear about Jesus. Every day, in every place, there are lost people who need to hear the message of salvation. Our duty is to tell them about Jesus and what He can do for them. Saving them is God’s business!

If our message is to be empowered like that of the early church, we must understand a few things.

- **The proclamation of the message is essential.**
- **The message must be preached, or no one will be saved.**
- **The power of God is paramount. We can preach; we can witness; we can tell, but if He doesn’t empower the message, no one will be saved.**
- **The message must be empowered, or no one will be saved.**

When God’s people plug in to prayer and a passion for others, we can count on His empowering His message to the salvation of souls.

In Closing, I want us to realize that we have many advantages over the early church, but they put us to shame in their accomplishments. Why? They stuck to the basics and God blessed them, working through them in a demonstration of divine power. THAT SAME POWER IS AVAILABLE TO US TODAY.

Like the early church, we need to return to the basics of Christianity.

We need to plug into the power of Prayer, the power of Passion and the power of Proclamation. Doing that will allow us to shake our world for Jesus.

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30am

Date: February 4, 2024

After Service: Open the Eyes of My Heart