

Power to Stand



By

Dave Winecoff

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Author's Preface

It was recently announced 92 million Americans seeking full time employment are now out of our economy's labor force. Their unemployment benefits have run out. So they are no longer counted in determining the unemployment rate keeping it artificially low. In addition the ten percent of disabled Americans receiving checks are not counted. So one of four looking for work can't find work! Families are being severely tested by the job flight overseas to avoid stifling regulations and burdensome taxes. Paradoxically the stock market is at an all time high. This was the case in 1929 resulting in the terrible stock market crash that plunged America into the Great Depression.

Jesus Christ warned there is a time coming he called the Great Tribulation. *"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."* Matthew 24:22. Increasing numbers of experts forecast the collapse of the dollar when it is removed from being the world's reserve currency. This would trigger an historic plunge in the stock market leading to a second great depression. Could this be part of what Christ warned would happen? How does one **stand in power** in such a time? Believers won't without God's help! The word "stand" is used 678 times in scripture. A significant word! The first time used is in Genesis 18:2 *"And he lift up his eyes and looked, and lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground."* This attitude of Abraham is what will be needed in such a terrible time. The study of the word power in scripture is our focus. When we are being tested we need to hear from the Lord. With his help we will stand in power.

Our most significant mission in life is the personal need to repent, get right with God, and seek the infilling of the fire of God. Then we will be overcomers. I pray this book blesses you.

Dave Winecoff

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1

need for power

There is a verse a friend, Ron Stokes, showed me. He was reviewing this book. Here It is:

“Seek the LORD and his strength: seek his face evermore.”

Psalm 105:4

Ron knows the importance of seeking the Lord. He wrote a book on its importance. But to seek his strength too? Could that explain why some Christians are overcome? *They seek the Lord, but not his strength?* Strength in this verse is another word denoting power. Fear of the power of death tops most lists of basic human fears. This particular fear has tremendous power over many people. Scientists work tirelessly to try to discover the secrets to extend life, and to overcome illness (another form of power over people). The spread of diseases like Ebola and natural things like increasing age do strengthen personal fear. The thought of dying can be terrifying.

Christians are taught Jesus Christ defeated death on the cross through the power of his Resurrection from the dead. But how many really believe it? Our eternal heritage is triumph over death. For those who do follow the advice above to seek the Lord and his strength, the fear of death should not haunt them.

Many American Christians are shamed into silence through the power of intimidation. Behind intimidation is a more menacing threat. It causes many to not stand up for what they believe. Why? Fear! Is political correctness so powerful a force that it can cower even true believers into silence? It appears so!

Behind political correctness in America is the growing threat of the use of government authority against Christians. It appears that legal force is being used to attempt to legislate Christian moral thinking out of public existence. “Lawfare! This is a new term that has been coined by someone that describes an offensive tactic that is cowering many of the faithful into silence. It is the legal use of frivolous lawsuits to intimidate believers.

all their lifetime

The Bible tells us:

“And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Hebrews 2:15

Christians who are not bold for what they believe are subject to bondage. They become fearful of shadows! They don’t know the power available to them to stand up against the forces of darkness empowering those who hate God. Such people are more influenced by the world, the flesh and the devil than by biblical doctrine. Why is this? They depend on worldly wisdom rather than to search out biblical truths (spiritual wisdom which is much higher) to act on. We miss hearing from God about a matter of personal concern if we immediately look to the experts. (doctors, lawyers, police, etc). Few take the time to reflect before reacting in a fearful manner. Most professionals rarely consult with scripture and just respond as their secular training has taught them to do.

The early disciples in Acts 2 were told to wait for the power of the Holy Ghost to come before trying to witness (to act). It appears that many who are Christians have not received the boldness to witness. Certainly those who aren’t readers would not know the importance of this baptism if they relied on teachers and pastors who don’t teach the importance of this baptism. Most authorities don’t really seem to believe what the written word says themselves. Behind a lot of our lesser fears stand our teachers who also seem to fear death. I really like what Jeremiah had to say:

“Thus saith the LORD; cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.”

Jeremiah 17:5

use of intimidation

Now look at the favor being given the religion of Islam today due to American political correctness. What a scam! Such nonsense doesn't come from our Lord. Their adherents don't have to be silent about their god, Allah. They are encouraged to speak out. But we aren't. Why? The power of intimidation, a form of fear, is being used against us right here inside America.

Suicide bombers and Islamic terrorists wage jihad around the world against all societies under the rule of non-Muslims. Once they have the numbers inside a non-Muslim nation they begin to intimidate. They tell us boldly they are on the march toward America. We are infidels in their minds. Yet our government continues to call this a religion of peace in spite of all evidence to the contrary.

Theirs is a death culture. They use the threat of death to keep their population under control. They say they love death the way we love life. The spread of Islam in our nation seems to be actively promoted by this present administration. Our culture used to be a culture that supported life and truth. No longer! Now a culture of death is eroding our former values. We have heard often that dying as a martyr is the highest honor in Islamic societies. There seems to be a stark difference in how they stand up for their faith as opposed to how Christians today are to stand up for their beliefs. They wield the heavy hand of government power over all non-believers. So why would many of our elected and unelected officials willingly promote such tyranny? It makes no logical sense. Could it be supernatural in origin? How else can we explain leaving a policy that promotes life and changing to policies that promote abortion, euthanasia, and Islamic values?

Satan wants us to think they have more courage. This is not true. It just seems to be true. It comes down to this: Who do you want to believe? So many want to

believe the lie! Apostasy and deception blind many. Fewer and fewer it seems want to believe the truth represented by the gospel of Christ. This has to be the case if you trust the polls. I generally don't. I think there are still more of us than them. But they are manipulating the polls to discourage us and get us into fear. In our society despite the media reports to the contrary there will be enough of us here who can influence through prayer what happens until God pulls us out of here through the rapture of the church.

overcoming the power of fear

How do our spiritual enemies seem to overcome the fear of death in their adherents? They do it the same way all armies do: Through training, indoctrination, and propaganda from early childhood up. They select fierce leaders who control through favoritism, fear, intimidation, torture, bribery, and murder to keep their faithful in line while instilling fear in their enemies by imposing Sharia Law, and subjecting unbelievers to fines, threats, suicide bombings, beheadings and crucifixions in a steadily increasing progression as their numbers grow.

There is another influence operating here. Theirs is a demon culture. Those spewing hatred have been taken over by demons. They are demonically influenced. You don't believe in demons? Then you call Jesus Christ a liar. For he taught much on the power of the devil and his demons and our need for his supernatural power in our lives, and that He was the only way.

That they don't fear death is an illusion. Muslim soldiers go forward against their enemies because they fear their brutal leaders and their god more than their non-Islamic enemies; or because of the fact that the demons in them don't die when their host dies. They just take over someone else's body after the death of their current host.

There is no real understanding of biblical love in Islamic cultures. Our love confounds them. It is the real source of our peace and joy. Our love is a greater force than their attempt to control through the use of fear.

love more powerful than fear

Those who grew up in the church as I did have heard the phrase perfect love casts out fear (I John 4:17-18). All my active duty military service was during the Cold War years. Russia and China were the nations we were training to fight against back then. Simply put I always believed our society was superior. For me it was several reasons, but mainly because of my moral beliefs! Our nation's moral underpinnings during my service years were definitely more Christian than now. Society back then was based more on love and trust when contrasted with the cultures of the two communist (atheistic) nations we viewed as our primary public enemies. Their cultures were permeated not by love, but by fear and suspicion. This focus led to wide spread depression and much alcohol use resulting in paranoid behavior giving our culture a distinct advantage. This distinction no longer seems so true today.

Americans have more than enough fear and suspicion to go around these days as the love of many waxes cold. Diversity training, political correctness, multiculturalism, the inability to profile, and other such doctrines have taken their toll on the church. These doctrinal teachings (policy) are nation killers. How do believers survive until the rapture in this growing culture of division? The same way believers survived under the tyrannies inside Russia and China during the Cold War years. We overcome! The paradox of Christianity is that faith explodes during persecution and weakens where it is tolerated. Because true Christians work as unto the Lord, they are valued for their skills and hard work even where their faith is officially outlawed.

the higher powers

Romans 13:1 says: *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers for there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."*

It is God who raises up and tears down leadership over peoples. As a result the people get what they deserve politically. No matter how bad it gets God can

cause the evil ones in charge to favor those he loves in spite of the beastly tendencies of the demons influencing them to treat the righteous otherwise. Travailing prayer will overcome!

On a side note, I am not attacking persecuted Christians here. We in the more open societies hear of many miracles God does inside the closed societies. I am giving hope in this book to those in our still somewhat open society. Christ talked (Matthew 13:30) about the separation of the tares from the wheat before the tares are gathered to be burned. In our society we see a separation between peoples going on. I believe in the coming destruction there will be safe areas and areas of judgment. There are areas around America where a few Christians are standing tall in prayer and making preparations because God has shown them the judgment that is at the door for our nation.

Some are hearing right now the Shepherd of our souls telling us how to prepare. He will make opportunities to accomplish the instructions being heard. For some it will be to move somewhere else. For some it will be to make preparations to flee! For some it will be to prepare to receive others when they come to their doors.

This next passage is equally instructive:

“Having your conversation honest among the gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evil doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

1 Peter 2:12

When we are always looking to God he causes things ultimately to go in our favor no matter the dangers or existing circumstances.

“What shall we then say to those things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:31

Our God is a God of love. Even though we live in a culture that day by day is separating itself more and more from our God; still he is able. We have wonderful promises and examples throughout scripture just for such situations. Don't despair as things grow darker and darker in our former Christian nation. In the scriptures (God's promises) you will find comfort and instruction.

what about this word power

I wanted personally to look at the use of the word power throughout the Holy Writ so that I could better understand how to overcome my own personal emotional ups and downs in life as I increasingly witness our local and national leadership fall under the anti-Christ spirit, and immorally use the secular authority invested in their particular governmental office (IRS, EPA, DHS, etc.) to attempt to bring Godly people under their control. The people in the controlling offices of the church, business, government, school systems, media, medical circles, police and military are increasingly being used against the people in America they have taken an oath to represent.

More and more we believers must learn to look always to God for our security and provision, and not to secular government that seem to want to subordinate us and are increasingly being misused. The written word of God is clear! There is a time coming when every nation on earth will come up to Jerusalem to do battle against our God.

Thank God we have been told this would happen through biblical prophecy and can get prepared mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. In this study we will look at many of the 281 uses of this word throughout the Bible to see what this word tells us about our destiny and what is coming. No matter how talented we are, or how much we have, we all will need to draw on the power of God in these coming days.

2

things God hates

Hatred is a very strong emotion. That is why Satan loves to stir up hate. Hatred is behind the age old desire to get rid of the Jews. Because of this hatred, we see in the Old Testament history that God moved in great power to protect his saints in ways we have not seen during this Age of Grace. He proved beyond reasonable doubt for those who study history and scripture that he was the one true God.

Yet we see the history of his chosen people is a history of failure not success in their worship of the one true God. How can this be? Only a few Judges, Kings, Prophets and Priests seem to have moved in the power of God before Christ's first coming. Only a few stood tall in true faith amongst the people of God. Those who did displayed mighty deeds of valor (Hebrews 11). The peoples surrounding Israel served false gods. Their neighbors lived in fallen angel - demon inspired cultures. There were giants in their lands. Yet, when God's chosen nation obeyed the God of the Bible no one could stand before them. God gave them the law (the Ten Commandments) to guide them and a few prophets and priests who spoke the truth to guide and instruct the people.

sin and rebellion

Personal sin and rebellion were the primary enemies of Israel, not the surrounding peoples. The entire Old Testament is the history of the ups and downs of God's people who were ruled more by their flesh than by the wisdom of God. As they turned away from him the blessings fled. When things got real ugly, they turned back to God, and the blessings returned. The demands of the flesh are no different today.

something far greater

New Testament saints, have been given the example of their successes and failures for instruction. The wise learn vicariously from studying what they did right and wrong. But we have been blessed in a far greater manner! The Old Testament Saints had their temple where God dwelt. We, who are born again, have become the temple of the Living God. God now dwells inside us who believe helping us to overcome our flesh so he can overcome our enemies.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

I Corinthians 3:16 (I Cor. 3:17, 6:19; II Cor. 6:16)

God indwells us through the Holy Spirit. This is so important for the born again believer to grasp. We can live an overcoming life. There is no need to fear death. We have nothing to fear from our potential enemies. Our God makes even our enemies to be at peace with us when we are living in Christ. (Proverbs 16:7) The key under both Testaments was to know God. What he hated. What pleased him!

Can anything fresh about walking and standing in the power of God be learned in this study? If worry, fear, doubt, or any unbelief that God’s promises are not meant in any way for you personally; than yes! This study can make a real difference in your life if you get a hold of the truths presented here.

Let’s look at what God says he hates in the church. There is a power grab going on inside our ranks. The enemy of our souls has infiltrated the church and America. God showed his people it would happen in the latter days. We can see this clearly in the light of the biblical prophecies that are not being taught in many churches. We see evil gaining strength not only all around us, but also causing compromise of our beliefs inside our gatherings. This explains why the church as an institution seems to be growing ever weaker.

We find two words, *God* and *hate. together*, in some verses of scripture. Let’s look at a couple of these verses to see what God might be telling us about these days we are in. Coming judgment should instill a holy fear or reverence in all of us.

Exodus 20:5 says: *“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.”*

Here God is making a bold declaration about what he will do to those who hate him. He says their hatred will affect their family line for four generations. It is not wise to get on God’s wrong side! He repeats this warning again in Deuteronomy 5:9.

There is eternal implication to being on God’s right side. This is what he says he will do for those standing with him.

“And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.”

Deuteronomy 30:7

Further In Psalms 68:1 David cries out to God:

“Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.”

The above is an anointed declaration (Job 22:28) of David’s that we might do well to be echoing in these last days ourselves. This is a wonderful short daily prayer.

seven things God hates

Before we look specifically at what God says he hates in the book of Revelation let us look at the seven things he told us he hated in the Old Testament:

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

Proverbs 6:16-19

The above is what he told his Old Covenant people in one passage of scripture. This is excellent guidance today. It's a good summary of what we see going on today in the daily news stories! God talks in many places in the Bible about what he hates. He just summarizes it here.

Let us review these seven things:

1. A proud look
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations
5. Feet that be swift in running to mischief
6. A false witness that speaketh lies
7. He that soweth discord among brethren

Footnote: This list brings to my mind many of the central characters featured in our nightly news stories fed to us by a biased press. How about the shooting in Ferguson, Missouri? Again a rush to judge the white police officer because an eighteen year old black man was killed! So many people unwilling to wait for the facts to come out, voicing racial opinions and rushing to judgment! It's heartwrenching!

Jesus hates some things

What has God told his new covenant people in this Age of Grace? The Book of Revelation addresses what God abhors in Revelation. He speaks specifically to seven different church assemblies through his Apostle, John. (Chapters two and three) We see seven specific messages to the churches. There are seven promises to those who overcome. All of us are being tested. Will we over come? Yes we can through faith in God!

Every assembly should analyze these seven messages in light of the struggles of their particular body to see what corrections need to be made. Where do we fit into this early snap shot of God's church? These are prophetic words spoken to different church assemblies throughout the present age of grace. What might God

be saying to us today about what he hates? What am I doing well? Where am I falling short?

Satan works hard to keep me from reading and studying these messages for myself. I seldom have heard preaching concerning these major truths found in this important end time book. Strong teachers who won't compromise the word of God are rare these days. With each warning in these seven messages God follows up with this phrase:

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches....”

Revelation 2:7

Each of these messages is about overcoming a specific evil going on throughout the church age. There are seven promised rewards for those who overcome. There is a lot to learn from these commendations and warnings from the Son of God about the right and wrong use of power in our age.

We see in Revelation chapters two and three that in the very early days of the church there were already seven very distinct bodies of Christ living in very different circumstances just in Asia Minor (Turkey). These seven specific churches of the first century were all his. They have grown into a vast assortment of diverse Christian peoples; approximately 1.4 billion of us worldwide.

Jesus says very clearly what he commends and condemns in these seven individual churches, located in the modern day nation of Turkey, in the first century. The wise take to heart his warnings about what is going on in modern Christianity.

Ephesus

In Chapter two verse four we see that our Father won't tolerate it when our love for Him takes a back seat to our love for others or things. That is made very clear in his specific message to Ephesus.

“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”

Revelation 2:4

We learn something else in this message. Jesus hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans. When we analysis this word we learn it means power over the people. Isn't this the clergy-laity system operating in most assemblies! Here we learn Jesus despices it when pastors and priests act as the bridge between God and man.

Smyrna

The next message is to the church in Smyrna. Here we learn of blasphemy which God always hates.

“...I know of the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan.”

Revelation 2:9

Pergamos

There are two warnings to the church in Pergamos. First, about holding the doctrine of Balaam, and next, about the deeds and doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

Revelation 2:14-15

We would do well to study what is said here. Christianity is loaded with false teachers, false prophets, and lying motives in our age that can take the undiscerning believer far off course through doctrines of demons.

Thyatira

In Revelation 2:20 we see a warning to Thyatira about allowing Jezebel to teach and seduce God's servants.

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols,”

Revelation 2:20

In many bodies today there seems to be an underlying spirit that prefers the leadership of women over men. Also there seems to be a growing fear of offending a woman which causes many not to speak the truth. Could this be what is referred to here?

Sardis

The criticism of Sardis in Revelation 3:1 is grave. That they have a name that they are alive, but they are dead! Don't we see in the church here in America many who say they are believers but in fact their lives reveal the truth. This spirit of Sardis seems very much alive in America today.

Philadelphia

Only two of the seven churches that Jesus says are his earn no rebuke or warning from him: the church of **Smyrna** which was under persecution from its neighbors and local government and also dealing with poverty and rising above it; and the church of **Philadelphia** which was full of love and missionary zeal. How many churches here in America do these two churches represent right now?

Laodicea

Others say that America for sure represents Laodicea. Lukewarmness seems rampant in many of the pews across America. This warning to Laodicea is quite severe.

“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth....”

Revelation 3:16-17.

Every church Bible study would do well to pour over these two important chapters in their entirety to see where they could be falling short.

In closing, what is there to be learned about standing in the power of God from these two important chapters of Revelation? That we must be looking to Jesus Christ who is the source of all authority and power! Are we attempting to stand with him as the heat is turned up? Or are we going to be found compromising our faith?

3

a power journey

The word power is the key word in this book. Its first use in Genesis 31:6 gives an important perspective:

“And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.”

The man who spoke these words, Abraham’s grandson, chosen by God believed he had served his father in law with all his strength. At the time he spoke these words, he knew a little about the God of his grandfather and father. He had learned about this God from these two family patriarchs. Once we are out from under the direct influence of those who love us is when we really have the opportunity through personal trials to make the God of the Bible our God. In verse 31:29 we learn from Jacob’s father in law’s words about the power of Jacob’s God. He had seen that power generated through his stepson and didn’t want to see him go.

In verse 32:28 we learn of a direct encounter with God that changes his perspective forever. It is here his name is changed to Israel (a name used 2415 times in scripture). In verse 49:3 where he speaks to Ruben, his first born of twelve sons, we see this word power used again.

In this first chapter of Genesis we see Jacob fleeing from his father in law, Laban, after fourteen years of servitude. We learn here that it is because of God’s protection that the father in law doesn’t kill him and that he is able to keep his family intact and move on. He relied on the natural power and cunning given to him at birth to escape from bondage. But it is God’s supernatural protection that

keeps him from falling back into bondage. From this story we know that God is in every aspect of the details of Jacob's life.

This is also true of our lives today, but we must know this is true. Like Jacob we must take a first step toward freedom in an area where we are in bondage. Then if we are on God's side, he will step in to help us take the next step.

The first use of this word deals with a supernatural God working through a believer's life in very natural ways! When most of us use this word, power, we are focused on natural power. The power given at birth and obtained naturally through family of birth, worldly position, educational obtainment, exercise, personal achievement and such!

few of us

Most of us never think of supernatural power being available to us personally! Most of us chase after the world's idea of power that is available through the work of our minds and hands and the world system, to gain fame and fortune. Most never come to see through spiritual eyes.

Few of us ever realize that God stands ready to intervene in our lives. The examples, good and bad, of the Old Testament saints can help us learn about standing in God's provision. We all must come to realize that we are tested in this life and must overcome the test. The test is used by God to see which side we will choose. God's side, or the side of those who oppose God. Scripture is clear that most choose to oppose God in pursuing their goals.

difficult family relations

In the story of Jacob (Israel) we see that Laban overtakes Jacob and would kill him. But God speaks directly to Laban in a dream, warning him not to harm Jacob, and putting the fear of Jacob's God in Laban, his manipulative father in law. We see that God speaks to Jacob directly through his trial or major life crisis. He learns that indeed God is watching directly over him. We learn that his twelve

children are not, with the exception of Joseph and Benjamin, easy children to live with.

Jacob's (Israel) natural strength is extended supernaturally through the blessing of twelve strong sons. God's favor clearly rests on Israel as it will with us if we chose God to be in our lives in a direct way. There is much to reflect on in just these first four power verses found in Genesis concerning how God works through our lives in both natural and supernatural ways as we overcome in the major tests God allows in our lives.

I love what I have learned from this next highlighted verse found in the second book, Exodus. It follows the four verses in Genesis concerning Jacob's life. Jacob has now raised up his twelve sons. They have turned into a very large family on their way to becoming a nation within a nation over the next four hundred years. Egypt is where God led the family through the saga of Joseph, one of the twelve sons. He did this so they could survive a wide spread regional famine.

“And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to show in thee my power and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”

Exodus 9:16

To me this is the most important verse in chapter three. You would think it speaks of Moses, not the Pharaoh! It demonstrates in a mighty way how God magnifies his Name. What role will each of us play in declaring His Mighty Name?

This chapter in the story of Israel concludes with a historic exodus out of Egypt (out of bondage). Moses was raised up to lead God's people out of slavery in Egypt. He gave a powerful prophetic word to the Pharaoh. Telling him why he raised him up was to show that the might of Egypt (a great world power) was as nothing before the power of God.

God demonstrated his mighty strength in leading his chosen people to freedom out of Egypt for all of mankind to profit from. Yet few national leaders learn from this important story! It is told very well in the movie TEN COMMANDMENTS. A

very sad part of this story was that so few in Israel developed any real faith in their God in spite of the miracles they witnessed him perform.

Look what pride, stubbornness and unbelief did for Israel in the wilderness after they left Egypt. Look what these three sins are doing in our day to the American church. It made slaves of God's people in Egypt. God had to use a heavy hand to break that rebellious spirit. What was true in the wilderness so long ago is still true today.

It took God 38 years of wilderness training to ready his people to cross the Jordan into the promised land. In the next verse he says of his people that in their natural strength they have become vain and prideful.

“And I will break the pride of your power: and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.”

Leviticus 26:19-20

I can't help reflecting

Things got increasingly difficult for Israel as they continued in their stubbornness, pride and unbelief. Most of the history of Israel seems to be one of failure in their relationship with God. Look at verse 37. It speaks of God's anger at his people:

“And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies.”

This indicates a gross failure to please God. When I read such Old Testament verses, I can't help thinking about the current condition of the church in the United States at one time clearly on the side of God. Our nation not only has lost its focus, but has clearly elected for a second time a president who know nothing about the Old Testament story of Joseph in Egypt. What was true 400 years later of the pharaoh at the time of the Exodus is true of our current president. Look how things turned out for Egypt. Will it be the same for the United States?

We are rapidly turning away from belief in most things Christian under ungodly leaders. Within our government at most levels there is an absence of Christian faith. We are plainly morphing into a very pagan, anti-Christian society. As was the case in Egypt for Israel we are seeing the increasingly heavy hand of God applied using the weight of our own government to bring the church to its knees as God did to ancient Israel. Things are increasingly turning against Christians in America. Sadly in our pride we will probably show as much ignorance as did Israel in the wilderness, in Egypt, and later at the first coming of Jesus Christ.

We see in Revelation 2 and 3 that we have to overcome to stand with Jesus and expect his power to be demonstrated in our lives (Hab2:5-10 and Col 3:1-3). Is the time coming in our nation when much of the institutional church due to widespread apostasy and deception will be abandoned by God and therefore be overtaken? During such a time true believers will be equipped to overcome every trial. God's power will still be available to us who believe to work in our lives.

In the next verse in **Numbers** we see Moses talking with God.

“And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my LORD be great, according as thou hast spoken saying, The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.”

Numbers 14:17-18

Here above we see Moses' heart as he pleads for Israel. But the record of many of God's Old Testament people to date has not been good reviewing the last three thousand years of their history. We, as Christians, can learn as much from how Israel displeased God as we can learn from how they pleased God.

the might of my hand

The next verse is probably quite typical of your average secular Christian.

“And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.”

Deuteronomy 8:17

Few of us when we accomplish things credit God. Also too many Christians are quick to judge the Jews. As a result we are walking out experiences they walked out. Turning one's back on God is not a wise thing to do. The hatred of the world toward the Jews is now transferring on to Christians worldwide who believe the church has replaced Israel and there is nothing special about national Israel in God's eyes. At a Middle Eastern Christian Conference Senator Ted Cruise was booed and end up walking out as their main speaker because he stood up for Israel and many in the audience, all Christians, did not appreciate his stand.

American Christians need to be looking to God as did Daniel in his hostile environment to maintain one's spiritual balance as adversity increases across America. Here in our nation many think that government welfare is the answer to their every need. Few seem to trust in and look first to the God of the Bible.

As we follow this word power through the Bible in the next five chapters of this study there is much to learn from the mistakes and successes of believers throughout history that can help us to negotiate successfully through this maze called life.

There is both defensive and offensive power. The actions of most people are defensive with very few willing to go on the offense against evil. To be successful when evil raises its ugly head we have to be able to hear, obey God and apply God's word to our particular situations.

4

God is my strength and power

The two books of Samuel speak of the beginning of Israel's kingdom. It takes exceptional men to start up a kingdom. King David was certainly a mighty man of God. In II Samuel 23: 8-39 we learn of David's mighty men. No king can build a righteous kingdom by himself. He needs to be righteous himself, and have loyal, committed followers. It takes many such men to build a kingdom that lasts.

We see that the first mighty man mentioned in scripture was Saul. But at some point he fell short during his reign as the first king over Israel. At the beginning he was very clearly given the power and favor of God. But he fell.

With the help of the mighty men mentioned in scripture who later came along side David the Name of God spread far and wide.

II Samuel 22:33 shows us David's heart:

"God is my strength and power; and he maketh my way perfect."

King David of Israel is confessing the source of his strength at the end of a 40 year reign as king; a very successful life. He was telling those assembled where his power actually came from to stand against all those who were arrayed against him to accomplish all he accomplished. Unlike his many enemies, some of his own household, arraigned against him he was able to turn his kingdom over to the son God had chosen to succeed him. King Saul was not able to do this even though his son loved David and was a righteous man.

There is a quote from David's son, the 3rd King to reign in the nation of Israel in this next verse.

"But the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice."

II Kings 17:36

Unfortunately most of the King's who followed in David's lineage had no such confession. With the right confession (Job 22:28) and walk comes strength from on high.

the destroyer of armies

God destroyed the Pharaoh's army as they attempted to cross the Red Sea after the fleeing slaves. He brought ten plagues on Egypt through God's servant, Moses trying to get the Pharaoh to see the light. These were mighty displays of God's great power in the Old Testament. In view of this might, how could God intervene on behalf of his elect in this final generation in which we live? Could it be an even grander display of power? God quite clearly tells us what he is going to do. There is a coming display of God's might that will be breath taking.

The world is becoming darker and darker just like was the case before judgment fell in both Noah and Lot's generations. In such times when God moves in his glorious power the splendor of it is more grandly displayed. What is coming was predicted by Jesus Christ to happen in the end times. What God does will certainly catch the world by surprise. But his saints need not be surprised. We have been told in prophecy what is coming. But we must study the prophecies of God to receive the blessings promised. Only those who are aware of what is coming will get prepared.

the end of a successful life

In **I Chronicles 29:11-12** we find King David praying as follows:

“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all...”

At the time of this prayer King David had reigned 40 years. He was turning over the throne to the son whom God had prepared. Solomon! He will reign another 40 years. The prayer is a long one. David is an old man. He has seen God move in miraculous power on his behalf many times. We can learn a lot from this man that God so loved.

The Bible tells us God has made us kings and priests. (Rev. 1:6) Looking at the period of these Old Testament Kings in the books written about the period of Israel’s kings, we see that most of them were not good leaders. They entered into folly because of sin. They often used their gifts and position of power for their benefit, not the people’s. This should be instructive to each of us who believe. We too have a kingly calling. There is knowledge and wisdom to be gained in all of these books about the kings of Israel from both good and bad examples.

In **II Chronicles 14:11** we see another King who knew his God. Look how he prayed and the results:

“And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude, O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.”

Look how God answered Asa in the next verse:

“So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa.”

One of the things I find personally instructive is the boldness of their prayers of faith. Look at the boldness in this next prayer. Notice the results:

“And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? And rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? And in thine hand is there not power

and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever? And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house.) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not; Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do; but our eyes are upon thee. And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. “

II Chronicles 20:6-14

Read further to find out how God saved them. United travailing prayer pleases God. Sad that it is so rare in our day here in America! In this part of the Bible we see that there were good kings but also evil kings over God’s people. God’s power was either for them or against them depending on their relationship with him: good or bad.

Job 1 and 2 are instructive

Skipping to the next book using this word, the Book of **Job**, we find eleven uses. I have reviewed all eleven of them. They are all instructive, but to keep this study short I will forego listing and commenting on these verses. The most interesting verse for me is the first verse.

“And the LORD said unto Satan, behold, all that he hath is in thy power only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”

Job 1:12

When we look at the entire passage that contains this word we see this book is all about power and where it comes from. God shows here that Satan has power when it is given to him. But God restrains and controls his use of the power to do evil. Even Satan's power ultimately comes from God. God acknowledges Job is righteous. Yet we know he is not "born again" in the way we who live in the Age of Grace are blessed. Job did not have access to the Holy Spirit (the source of power on earth) in the way we do today.

As we read through the highlighted verses with the word, power, in this study we see that Job was loved by God. He certainly feared God. The fear of the LORD is a great gift. The beginning of all wisdom! So many don't have this gift in our generation! Job was a man of prayer. But like all of us he was tested and passed the test. I can't pretend to understand why God allowed Satan to destroy Job's children and possessions. I am sure he had good reason and was fair, but it is hard to understand his reasoning. Later he allowed Satan to attack Job personally making him miserable with boils all over his body. We all have to pass the personal tests given us as did Job.

We see that after testing Job in these two ways, he proved faithful in spite of these dire circumstances. Satan's belief that he would turn against God because of his troubles proved not to be true. Job passed the test. God then restored back to Job his health and gave him twice the wealth and family that he had before this period of testing.

This was the first book written that became part of the sixty six books of the Bible. It shows us that others outside of Christendom who don't know Christ can incur the favor of God. But only the born again Christian has access to the Holy Spirit and is assured of salvation.

We will devote the next chapter to the book of **Psalms**. Many of the Psalms are credited to David's pen. We will look at the uses of this word, power, found in the Psalms.

5

Relationship: key to power

David was a man after God's own heart (1 Kings 15:3). He faced awful times during many years of his life. He had to confront and overcome many personal issues he faced. It is so easy for us to get into personal discouragement during disappointing times. David is a wonderful example of how to overcome.

I wanted to see what might be discovered from this focus on David's life. How he personally looked at this word, power. This word is used twenty three times in the Psalms. We see the struggles David faced in many of the Psalms. His ups and downs emotionally! As we get nearer to the start of the Tribulation it is our relationship with God that is more important than any natural strength we have obtained.

After he came to power he ruled Israel forty years. He didn't enjoy an easy life. He wasn't perfect. He made some horrific mistakes. But he was an overcomer! He repented, forgave and when admonished acknowledged his shortcomings and was forgiven. Just as we are called to do in our own lives!

I can identify with him because of the Psalms he was inspired by God to write. I love the honesty of his emotions. He was under the rule of King Saul, the first king of Israel. Those were difficult years. When he was just a youth he experienced the discipline of being a shepherd responsible for a flock of sheep. In protecting his flock he killed a lion and a bear. Fame came to him after he stood up to and killed a Philistine giant in the power of God. He learned discipline from being a soldier in King Saul's army.

After years of faithful service to the king he had to flee and was continuously hunted by the king who wanted to kill him during his jealous rages. Saul angered God and was eventually removed by God himself through the enemies of Israel.

need for patience

We see from scripture that David had a very personal relationship with God and was anointed by the prophet Samuel very early in the reign of King Saul. But he did not actually enter the office of King for a number of years. He waited a long time for God to remove Saul. His patience was sorely tested by God. After the king made a number of attempts to kill David who fled into the wilderness, David was on the run for years just surviving. He was a fugitive. In Saul's eyes a criminal! David knew he was to become King one day. But he never lifted his hand against Saul waiting on God's perfect timing.

David's ability to wait on God is very instructive. Many of us who are called and chosen become impatient as we are required to wait on God. If we venture out into service for God before we are fully trained and ready we will suffer unwanted consequences because of our impatience. Many end up falling short in their quests to serve God.

I have found from reading the Psalms as a discipline (which I did once a month for many years) that I have much in common with the emotional ups and downs to be found in the life of David as he attempted to remain faithful to God and righteous in the wicked world of his day.

The fact that David was a King can throw us off. He must have had special talents that made him better than us, we might think. But this is not true. We too have been appointed Kings in Christ Jesus according to His Holy Word. But we too must wait for God to act on our behalf after submitting to him as Lord and Savior. We too are favored by God no matter our present station in life.

“And from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Amen.”

Revelation 1:5-6

We all must realize just as David had to flee evil for a number of years as a future king; so must we. We presently are refugees in this life. We are in training to rule with him in the future millennium that is to come.

In this book we see David praising and marveling at God’s power and at times being rescued by God’s power after a desperate plea for help. Let us look at some of the verses in Psalms where power is used.

God speaks of power through David

“Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.”

Psalm 21: 13

As much as it is rewarding to be strong in our own body and to be able to do feats of strength; it takes a lot of effort and time to build up our natural power. And we see it get many into distraction. It can become an idol in one’s life. While it is of some value, the above verse says we will sing and praise his power when we see it on display not ours. We can’t exalt God by our power. He is exalted by his power.

“Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.”

Psalm 22:20

Often evil men are called dogs and they often employ dogs to do their dirty work. While we can learn some natural skills to defend ourselves against evil doers, when we look to God he is our very sufficient defense.

"I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

Psalm 37:35

This verse for me speaks of today. We see men in positions of power and men with great wealth bending or subverting justice to do their will. It sickens me. Right now we have men in high office ignoring our laws and doing what is right in their own eyes. It is a time of increasing lawlessness.

"But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave; for he shall receive me. Selah."

Psalm 49:15

While I hope to be alive at the rapture I know that the dead in Christ rise first and then those who are alive and remain will be caught up. David too knew of the resurrection of the dead.

"But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble."

Psalm 59:16

When I was baptized in the Holy Ghost I really became aware for the first time of the availability of God's mighty power in my life. Before then I lacked spiritual discernment. Many times good things happened in my life, but I thought it more a stroke of luck or just good fortune. I didn't see such happenings as a direct blessing from God. I should have been waking up singing in the mornings because of God's tremendous favor in my life, but I had no understanding of supernatural favor. David of Old acquired an understanding early in life that I lacked until my middle years.

"God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God."

Psalm 62:11

This verse is a wonderful reminder that all power belongs to God. Even when we see power being displayed by wicked people God has allowed it for his purposes, and we should not despair or be envious.

a very special night

“To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.”

Psalm 63:2

This above verse was given to me personally on a very special night in 1978. I had been pressing into the written word as never before seeking his presence. After a couple weeks of pressing in, I had a very powerful open eyed vision lasting about an hour. It changed me forever. Later that night as I was praising God for his unimaginable love and awesome favor this verse above dropped into my spirit. I did not know it existed. He took me right to it in my Bible. He also took me directly to other verses in the Bible such as Psalm 104: 2-3 to show me my experience was real and of God. To see God’s power we must spend time in his presence. In these upcoming days we will need his power and should expect to receive it.

“Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power:”

Psalm 65:6

We live in a mountain town in Central Washington. We have mountains in view that are volcanic and could erupt. When Mount Saint Helens blew it covered our town with a heavy layer of ash. Thank God he has the power of these mighty mountains under his control.

“Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.”

Psalm 66:3

horses are powerful

Karen and I have horses. We control them with fences, stalls, bridles and reins. They are much stronger than we are. But they must submit to us. It is comforting to know that God causes his enemies to submit to him in the same way. We need to seek his presence if we are to benefit from his power unlike our enemies who don't submit to him willingly. As we become proficient in cooperating with God's power he will use us to force our enemies to submit to him.

"He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations" let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah."

Psalm 66:7

It is hard to get a hold of the concept of forever and ever. We see ungodly nations acting in a criminal manner. It is comforting to know God sees and they will not get away with their rebellion.

"How also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come."

Psalm 71:18

I am now 75. This verse encourages me to keep writing. One is never too old to make a difference. We must act while we still can. The old and greyheaded are supposed to show God's power to succeeding generations.

so many believers suffer greatly

"Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;"

Psalm 79:11

We hear of the innocent in prisons around the world who are not being dealt with in humane ways. There is a U.S. Marine (a war veteran) in jail in Mexico for taking

a wrong turn at our southern border. Our President does nothing for him while honoring those who are violating this same border by crossing it illegally. Shameful behavior! It is so good that God's arm is not short in these situations. He is working out his purposes in that Marine's life as he does for each of us. If we want to see his awesome power and have never seen it manifest in our life, it just might be that we have to take a personal risk. Maybe we are being too cautious if we are one of his disciples.

"Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known."

Psalm 106:8

It is so good to know that sometimes he shows grace not because we deserve it but for his Name's sake to make his mighty power known.

"He hath showed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen."

Psalm 111:6

We see in the Old Testament how when Israel crossed the Jordon River all the wealth of the heathen was put in their power. If he was that generous back then to those stiff necked people, what does he have in store for us who love him in our day?

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power."

Psalm 150:1

Often I remember the wonderful vision God allowed me in 1978. What a great privilege, example and lesson it was to watch him as he interceded in his sanctuary, and to see the colorful displays of his power go forth in all directions. It causes me to praise his Holy Name a fresh every time I think about it.

As I read through this sampling of verses in Psalms with the word power in it I am struck with a couple of thoughts. First, who do I know in my circle of

acquaintances including myself who think and speak the way David speaks in the Psalms? No one!

Most of us have never served in appointed offices and positions that wield power over people as did David. I have had that privilege. When we think of power we are apt to think of other's power over us. This word power is likely to raise apprehension in us. When a police car happens to turn in behind us when we are obeying the law does it get us into fear until it turns away? Because of the rising crime, are we constantly looking over our shoulder even in our own homes?

These verses occasionally mention the power of the enemy, but most of the verses speak of God's power, not the enemies. Just like David did when we place our selves under his divine protection, we truly have nothing to fear if our focus remains on him in spite of difficulties being experienced as we wait for him to act.

When we review the life of David through the many books of the Bible where he is spoken about (his name is mentioned 1040 times in 28 books of the Bible) it speaks to the many frightful circumstances, and unfriendly peoples he encountered. Yet he steadied himself by praising and honoring the one who truly had power: God. David had a heart that sought after God and that seems to be the key to why God demonstrated his power so often in David's life. What came out of David's mouth was good because of the condition of his heart. Scripture tells us that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and he had a heart that longed after God.

When you are feeling sad, lonely, fearful or defeated visit the Psalms. Learn from how David dealt with the full range of his emotions. We who believe can learn much from David about how to live in these increasingly evil times.

6

Be strong do exploits

At this point you should have a better understanding of biblical power. If you are under spiritual attack, or have been concerned for a family member under attack; a good understanding of the need for divine power is critical. Motivate yourself to continue this study to have even a better understanding. You will be glad you did.

Many don't understand the importance of the Old Testament and never go there. I have the New Testament. Why study the Old? It is full of rich examples, promises and shadows of things to come. There are many fulfilled prophecies that encourage and give us hope in these evil times upon us. There are wonderful promises that help my faith.

There are many prophecies that remain to be fulfilled that speak not only of coming tribulation and hardship, but also of deliverance for God's people from what is coming. We can learn in these books what so many now over look, that God was faithful to deliver and provide for his faithful in old times and will do the same for us.

choosing ignorance

God can be depended upon to protect and keep us safe. But a believer can be caught unaware if he is not a disciple of God's written word so has not prepared spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, financially and physically. He can override his promised protection through personal fear and panic when the unexpected comes. It is folly to think that things won't go from bad to worse for such a person.

To not pursue an understanding of the Old Testament is in effect to choose ignorance over knowledge. Many seemingly Intelligent Jews around the first coming of Jesus Christ (scribes and synagogue leaders) spoke of the importance of righteousness, but missed it badly. Why? They did not know the whole counsel of God. They relied on false teachers among them and perished or suffered greatly. They fell far short in the area of the knowledge available to them in the Old Testament about the future. It will be the same today for those in our generation who remain willfully ignorant by ignoring large chunks of the Bible.

Press on through this chapter and the remainder of the book. Don't slack off. We all need to know what is coming on the earth so we won't fall for the lies being perpetrated by people who have fallen into deception. Be certain about what is about to happen. There is much more to be gained by finishing this course.

eleven books

Between the book of Psalms and the start of the New Testament (Book of Matthew) are eleven books that use this important word *power*: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Micah, Nahum, Habakkak, and Zechariah. They all provide previews of mankind's future. The book of Daniel in the middle of this list has eleven verses using this word and is a critical end time book. The other books use this word two to six times each. All address God's end time power.

Many wicked leaders are referred to in the Bible who wielded power against God's people in their day and provide clues to what's coming. They are all shadows of things to come. One is coming who we call the anti-Christ! His lineage and rise to power is chronicled in the book of Daniel. He will be given great power for a season over God's elect. We should know all we can about what God is telling us in these ancient books. Jesus Christ assures us in Matthew 16:18 that the gates of hell will not prevail against his church. Is there a difference between what God is saying in Daniel about his elect being overcome and what Jesus says about his church not being overcome?

Daniel speaks more about the anti-Christ than does any other prophet. It is therefore appropriate that this word power is used so many times by Daniel. Will it be God's power to protect, or Satan's power to destroy that is discussed more in Daniel? We will see. Most know about how God protected Daniel and his three friends. Not only did they know their God, but more importantly their God also knew them. They would have succumbed to personal fear and doubt in their fiery trials if they had not known the faithfulness of their God who had the power to step in to save them and did. Why were they able to stand? God tells us why.

There is another word, strength, which is closely related to the word power. We find it used throughout the Bible 318 times. Though we aren't tracing this word in this study we frequently see the phrase: "strength and power" together. These are often interchangeable words.

withhold not good

"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."

Proverbs 3:27

Just as we have to forgive to be forgiven, this above verse indicates that if we want to benefit from divine power we need to do good when it is in our natural ability to do so. Yet we see many who call themselves Christians who vote for pro-abortion or pro-homosexual candidates. They vote their pocket books instead of making a right moral choice and think God will not notice.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

Proverbs 18:21

There is so much truth in this verse. Whatever comes out of our mouth good or bad determines what happens to us good and bad. We should hear what we say and take it to the Bible to see if it lines up. In the Book of James we learn the last thing we gain control over is the power over our own tongue (James 3: 5,10). How

can this be? The Bible says out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34). Only God can change the heart. No amount of discipline will overcome a bad heart.

“So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power but they had no comforter.”

Ecclesiastes 4:1

This speaks of the terror that comes to those who live in countries where Christianity has been stamped out or never took root. Those who live under such tyranny suffer greatly. They have no comforter. We have a comforter. His name is the Holy Ghost!

importance of gratitude

“Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.”

Ecclesiastes 5:19

This is so true. So many who are gifted in this way are not grateful to God! In fact show him no gratitude. In their view he doesn't seem to exist. Those who have less who are grateful to God for what they do have earn the favor of God by such an attitude. It is often impossible in the natural realm to control outcomes, but we are all responsible for our personal attitudes.

“A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.”

Ecclesiastes 6:2

This verse speaks of the final outcome of ingratitude for the ungodly. These were the words of the wisest and wealthiest ruler in Ancient times, King Solomon. We

find his name 314 times in scripture. In his last years he lost almost everything as the result of his idolatry. It started with trying to please pagan wives who worshipped false gods. Be very careful who you marry or bring into your close circle of friends or into a business relationship. Who you become yoked with!

“Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?”

Ecclesiastes 8:4

I have noticed that as we gain in power and stature pride starts to get a grip on most of us. If we are not careful we become less open to the advice of those who loved us in our immaturity before attaining any fame or fortune. It is hard when those you love are no longer open to what you have to say. When one begins to move in more prestigious circles it is easy to look there for advice and forget those who helped you get there. As one gets closer to the seats of power one must be careful to not become someone who says what the powerful want to hear.

we are weak

“There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.”

Ecclesiastes 8:8

It is wisdom to know that wickedness can't deliver the wicked from their evil deeds and they will come to their end in spite of how it seems as we watch them strut around on the world scene. Those who truly have the Holy Spirit know he can deliver us, but we must act in faith as overcomers.

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power not one faileth.”

Isaiah 40:26

Our God reigns!

but he is strong

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.”

Isaiah 40:29

Haven't we all been in a position of having no might! Feeling faint in the midst of a terrible circumstance is a common experience. What a comfort for believers to be able to look to the source of all power on such occasions and truly expect his help. Humanity seems to have a stupid gene that comes down from Adam and Eve that sets us all up to believe the lies of Satan. We are given a fighting chance to see through Satan's scam when we accept the truth in Christ. We who are born again begin to understand spiritual matters in a way not open to the lost.

“Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flames: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.”

Isaiah 47:14

Hell and the Lake of Fire (the second death) are so terrible. I wish no one that fate. God in the above verse speaks of 'they' who have such a destiny. How terrible a fate awaits those who hate or ignore our God.

“Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? When I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.”

Isaiah 50:2

Our God is an awesome God!

“Ah Lord GOD! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:”

Jeremiah 32:17

There are things that happen that are just too hard for me to fix. But nothing is too hard for my God to fix. There are a few I love that I have a poor relationship with at the moment. I have given these situations to God to change for the better in his own timing. There is nothing too hard for him. Praise God!

“Say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Shall it prosper? Shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? It shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof.”

Ezekiel 17:9

I look at the many who couldn't care less about the things of God. I see the few who do care a great deal and I marvel. It explains why we see evil abounding! It gives me great pleasure to meditate on verses such as the one above and know that my God has everything under his mighty control.

“Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fail; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD.”

Ezekiel 30:6

This is one of those yet to be fulfilled prophecies in our Bible. There is a time coming when Egypt which represents the world will not be inhabited for 40 years. (Ezekiel 29:12, Isaiah 46) Some think that it speaks of the dam that holds back the Nile River giving way and flooding the land and turning it into a mosquito plagued swamp. Who knows! But this verse speaks of the end of the terror and misery caused in all those countries where Islam now rules.

book of Daniel

This book is one of the most discounted but important books in all the Bible. It is a book of dreams from God and their interpretations that tell the future of mankind. Daniel and Revelation play off each other revealing to us what is shortly coming to pass. Few can accurately interpret current events because few know or trust in the validity of prophecy. For those who don't believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, prophecy could not possibly be understood even if studied. That includes most of the world leaders.

"Thou, O King, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power and strength, and glory."

Daniel 2:37

This is the opening verse of a mighty king's dream. It lays out the history of gentile domination over Jerusalem. This dominion is now coming to an end. Most have no clue that this prophecy is about to unfold.

"And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counselors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them."

Daniel 3:27

Once this world was destroyed by water! The next time it will be destroyed by fire. The faith of these three who withstood the fire is the type of faith needed in the times we are entering into. The stand of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego illustrate the power of faith to stand. We also can have this faith if we refuse to compromise.

"The King spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

Daniel 4:30

This above verse could come out of the mouth of some of our present day national leaders and it would not surprise me. For most of us pride is our downfall. For this king his pride as evidenced by this verse. It led to his being struck down by God for seven years. During that time he lived like a beast in the field. Is this a shadow of the fate waiting the modern rulers of this world?

“he delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Daniel 6:27

Many believers don't believe in the literal interpretation of the Bible. There is no supernatural power. For them it's mostly children's stories. For me the Bible is real! Like the three friends of Daniel I want to know my God and do exploits (Daniel 11:32). I want to have the kind of faith to stand in these last days that the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews Chapter Eleven had.

“And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power....”

Daniel 8: 6-8

This passage speaks of two nations that oppose each other. Both evil! One violently overpowers the other! Daniel gives us clues to the identity of the anti-Christ. Where he comes from! This is one of the clues.

“Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power....”

Daniel 8: 22-24

These verses all are better understood in the full context of the chapter. They have near and far term fulfillments. We are in the last days. The far term fulfillments are coming into focus. We are seeing the rise of the beast systems spoken of so long ago.

One thing is quite obvious. Many of these verses can't stand alone. There are four more in this book I haven't mentioned. One must carefully look at the context to understand what God is saying. It is amazing to me how often a verse in our Bible can stand alone however. I love it when one of God's verses comes alive for me personally in his mighty word.

five often overlooked books

The books of Hosea, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zechariah all use this word, power two or three times. These books aren't taught from much in pulpits across America. I wasn't exposed to them in Sunday sermons. They carry hidden truths about the last days. These books finish our trace through the Old Testament. Don't skip over them. Give God a chance to reveal something important to you personally through your diligence.

Most believers I suspect have heard the name Hosea. They might even know the basic story from a sermon on marriage and faithfulness in the face of betrayal and rejection. But how many have actually read this book on their own? When I finally did for the first time in my early 50s, I was shocked how current it was for our times personally. I saw our political situation in the United States come alive in its pages. I was startled how relevant I found this book. It is a story of betrayal and faithfulness. Survey these few remaining O.T. verses. See what you can glean.

“He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: Yes, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;”

Hosea 12:3-4

I gleaned personally from this passage as I let the Holy Spirit speak to me. I pondered it in light of what I know historically about these two famous brothers. Their struggle is affecting us today. It spoke clearly to me about what God thinks of abortion! He might speak to you about another truth while you reflect on a particular verse. You might hear something different. Certainly Jacob had power with God because unlike his brother he aggressively sought God's blessing.

“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.”

Hosea 13:14

This passage speaks to me of the coming resurrection of the dead at the rapture. There are Old Testament verses about the rapture that were kept secret from those alive at that time until the mystery was revealed to Paul by Jesus Christ when he visited the third heaven.

getting away with murder

“Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light, they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand.”

Micah 2:1

God tells us here he knows what we are plotting in our beds. Though he is slow to bring judgment he will bring it at a time he has planned. Woe to those who do evil!

“But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.”

Micah 3:8

Much of what God is doing right now is hidden from those with no discernment or prophetic understanding. We can expect that there is a time coming very soon when those alive and remaining will see his mighty power on display. To be available to God to exhibit his power through us, we must be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

“The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.”

Nahum 1:3

We all know people who are getting away with murder. What they are doing grieves us greatly. Yet the Lord assures us he will take care of their evil in due season. Aren't we glad he gives us and our family members a season to figure it out and repent! We see him right now across the world using the whirlwind, the storm and the clouds for his hidden purposes.

"He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily."

Nahum 2:1

God knows who these evil ones are. It is he who will avenge the innocent. But we are to be prepared so we can flow in his Awesome Might.

"Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god. "

Habakkuk 1:11

Here is a prophecy about the one we call the anti-christ. Certainly "*his god*" is not our God.

"Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!"

Habakkuk 2:9

Look around you at the evil on display. Know that more and more evil is coming out of hiding. This verse reassures me that God will stand strong in these evil days before us against these evil ones who are living like no one can touch them. No matter what they do they can't avoid God's coming judgment.

"And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power."

Habakkuk 3:4

For me this is another ancient prophecy of this last days move of evil power. Just what we are seeing today! Our God uses this evil power for his purposes.

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Zechariah 4:6

Those who have discernment are seeing the power of God on display in our day as he separates the wheat from the chaff. A movie released this year makes the point: GOD IS NOT DEAD. A great movie! This verse above assures me that God will take care of things by his mighty Spirit.

“Behold, the Lord will cast her out, and he will smite her power in the sea; and she shall be devoured with fire.”

Zechariah 9:4

This last verse assures me that God will move in mighty power against the system of evil we see building all around us.

Maybe the most important verse in Daniel I will quote now which is all about God’s power though we don’t see the word power in this verse. Is this your expectation in these difficult days we live in? It should be!

“...But the people who know their God shall be strong and do exploits.”

Daniel 11:32

This brings us to the New Testament. The Old Testament is a shadow of things to come. Much of what God is doing now and is about to do was not understood by those in prior generations hearing or reading those words in the generation in which they were spoken. But God is opening up our understanding in these last days as he promised in Daniel 12.

7

New Testament Power

In this Age of Grace the pursuit and use of worldly power, and the abuse of such power by the natural man is the same as in ancient times. Human nature has not changed. Man's tendency towards aggression and envy is unchanged since the fall. Only the weapons and systems seem more advanced. The below verse summarizes what the Bible has to say about man's heart before conversion:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it."

Jeremiah 17:9

But, since Jesus Christ's First Coming things are changed. Those who truly surrender their lives to him experience the availability of supernatural power in quite different ways than those days before Christ came to save, deliver and redeem us. Those who can see and hear what the Spirit is saying are given an awesome and powerful gift from on high, the Holy Ghost. We have access to power never dreamed of by the average man before this Age of Grace began.

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Luke24:49

Could it be that the church in our day is so weak that it seems to be having little influence on the world at large because so few are tarrying until endued with this power from on high?

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them: they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Mark 16:17-18

While the above verse doesn't have the word power in it, I have sandwiched it between two verses that do. Notice the reference to divine power. I believe this verse wonderfully describes and defines what real believers do in his mighty name. What a powerful description!

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 10:19

I personally have heard many testimonies in my lifetime of this supernatural power healing, delivering and raising from the dead. But this power is denied by those who won't believe and won't tarry. Such blindness is astounding.

As this age of miracles draws to a close we are seeing the rise of evil come into view on a scale that Noah and Lot experienced. The scientific tampering of DNA is reminiscent of the age before the flood with the mischief of the fallen angels. Jesus warned us this would happen again. Things do not bode well for the next few years. Those left behind after the soon coming rapture of true believers off the earth are in for a time of trouble never before seen on this earth.

I find it interesting that HBO did a series in June, 2014 called “THE LEFTBEHINDERS. I didn't see the series, but watched the trailer. Also a new “left behind” movie is coming out this fall starring Nicolas Cage. That trailer is now on the internet. It makes me wonder about how the rest of this year might pan out. There are so many movies now that depict what hell on earth might be like that are in theaters and on television. People flock to see these transformer type movies. You decide! Is God using Hollywood in their distorted way to warn us of what's coming?

What can be learned that we haven't yet learned about power by tracing this word through the New Testament? In counting up the New Testament verses with the word power in it I was surprised to find the word used 143 times in the New Testament. This is more than the 138 times in the Old Testament. This seems surprising in light of all the fighting and warfare in the Old Testament. There are twelve more Old Testament books than new. I would point out that there are other words we are not researching that also imply power: such as strength, might, conflict, authority, deliverance and such which magnify God's use of power to help his people. I am just trying to discover what can be learned from tracing this one word in this particular study.

the LORD's prayer

Look where we find the first use of power in the New Testament:

"and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Matthew 6:13

The next verse is also the Lord, Jesus Christ using this word. It is clear he walked in a new kind of power never before seen in his generation.

"But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy.) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house."

Matthew 9:6

Here Jesus displays this new kind of power. Such power was not available to believers in the Old Testament days. They did have the occasional prophet or mighty man God came along side to empower and use to accomplish his purposes in those days. But they lived in a different dispensation where God was doing things different. Not even the system of priests in the Temple worship experienced such divine power as is available to us who believe in our day. In the

New Testament the church is given authority to heal and deliver in the Name of Jesus Christ. Such a distribution of power was not available to Israel of old.

“But when the multitudes saw it, they marveled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.”

Matthew 9:8

This verse shows how uncommon such a spectacular healing as Jesus had just performed was. The exciting thing for me is this: his power has been handed down through the apostles and early disciples to those of us who believe in our day. All of us can walk in this power. (Mark 16:17, Luke 10:19) This was not possible for believers under the Old Testament Covenant.

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

Matthew 10:1

Here we see the beginning of the dispersal of a new kind of power to the common man. It was not given to the caste system of priests in the apostatized system of Israel. It had been so corrupted by sin and Satan’s forces that they couldn’t even see the promised Messiah when he came. Yet his coming was prophesized to bring in his everlasting kingdom. They were so blind they rejected him. And we see this blindness in Christendom today. So many not looking for his coming.

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

Matthew 22:29

Here we see inside the religious system. Supposedly knowledgeable men asking questions of Jesus trying to trip him up! They had been blinded by Satan (II Corinthians 4:3-4), and believed doctrines of demons. They couldn’t discern that the power of God was standing there in human form talking with them. How sad

is that! Many in the church are in this same error today. They deny the supernatural power of God is available to us today (II Timothy 3:5).

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Matthew 24:29-30

Jesus in this passage responds to a question asked by one of his close companions: When will he return to bring in the promised kingdom? This feat will require a tremendous display of great power to bring it in.

“Jesus saith unto him, thou hast said; nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

Matthew 26:64

In this verse he is talking about where all power resides: with his Father in Heaven.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth.”

Matthew 28:18

Given by whom? The Father in Heaven! When he made this statement it was after his death, burial and resurrection. Now they know for sure he is God incarnate and that the Father has given him all power.

Following the above key verse is Jesus’ exhortation to his disciples on how to use this power:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen.”

Matthew 28:19-20

In the next two books of the Bible Mark and Luke report many similar things. I will skip verses that repeat what was reported by Matthew. Here is a verse in Luke with new information.

a special kind of power

“And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1:17

This verse speaks of John the Baptist. He was the forerunner to make way the path for Jesus Christ. He was given a special charisma and power from birth to do his unique work. In the same way over the past two thousand years we who believe have been given power to do what we have been called to do.

“And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

It took a special power from on high to do to Mary what was required to bring forth God’s only son into the world in a natural way.

“And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.”

Luke 4:6

Here we see stolen power that can be given by Satan to achieve worldly success! Satan tried to corrupt and bring Jesus under his power by tempting him to

abandon his mission. Satan uses this kind of power to achieve to turn people away from God through fame and fortune. This explains how the ungodly obtain power to gain in this life. Jesus resisted such temptation. This next verse shows the results of his discipline.

“And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.”

Luke 4:14

Jesus received power after he passed his test. We can expect to be tested before we receive our assignment and the power to accomplish it.

8

they were astonished

History! His story! The Bible and even history is all about Jesus. Have you ever sat in the pews and fallen asleep during a sermon? I have! I assure you it was not that way when Jesus Christ opened his mouth in wisdom and power. The crowds were astonished. The religious leadership often raged. He stirred emotions! He excited all who heard him in one way or another. Nineteen times Luke uses this word power:

“And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.”

Luke 4:32

As they sat in the pews, they not only heard wisdom, but were likely to see demons cast out.

“And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! For with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.”

Luke 4:36

“And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were coming out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.”

Luke 5:17

The religious leaders were present to hear him preach. He set a very powerful example for them and for us today to follow. Following such a man is too hard for many.

“But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, {he said unto the sick of the palsy,} I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.”

Luke 5:24

Once again, Jesus speaks of receiving power to accomplish a specific task. God will give us strength to accomplish our mission.

power and authority over all devils

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.”

Luke 9:1

Power and authority over all devils! Did you get that? It is devils who are behind much of the sustained problems in our local spire of influence. We who follow in the line of Jesus Christ are given supernatural power to trump their power. God’s should prevail in our own lives. Why are things going badly for much of the church in America? The short answer is personal unbelief and cowardice!

Most Christians really don’t believe all God is telling us in his written word. Most of us have a pick and choose mentality. We don’t want a closer personal relationship with him. That would change the way we like to be. Our level of understanding and belief is just fine with most of us. We are rich and don’t need anything.

The Roman Pope Frances just made this statement: *“It is dangerous to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”* That is not what scripture is telling us. He was quoted saying this on the Drudge Report and other sources. (These Christian Times, July 5th) Drudge is the largest internet news reporting service in the world.

Spiritual knowledge is a dangerous thing! Not for us who trust Jesus, but it is for the devils who are behind all world powers such as the Vatican. Such a nonsensical statement! And from a man who sits in probably the most powerful religious seat in the world. If we have a personal relationship with Jesus we do not need him., This is an anti-Christ statement.

“And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples,”

Luke 9:43

He let the crowds wonder, but spoke intimately to his disciples. He is this way today with those who press in to hear what he has to say to us who believe.

power to tread on

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 10:19

Is this just an idle promise God doesn't intend to keep for the common believer? Most of us are not in any positions of prominence. But God is speaking to the common believer concerning power over demons he comes in direct contact with. Much good could be done by believing such a promise.

I can boast from my own experience that God is faithful to keep his promises. I stand on such promises. There have been many occasions in my own life where I have been the recipient of unmerited favor after crying out. I want you to read the next twelve verses without my comments to soak in the power of what God is telling us through his written word:

“but I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; hear, I say unto you, Fear him.”

Luke 12:5

Aren't we glad Satan doesn't have the power talked about in the above verse.

“And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.”

Luke 12:11-12

None of us wants to be apprehended by authorities for standing with Jesus, but isn't it comforting to know he will teach us in such times how to respond correctly.

“Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Luke 21:26-27

Like Mathew 24 and Mark 13 Luke 21 is concerning Jesus addressing his disciples about what is coming on the earth during the Tribulation. Hopefully none of us will be here at that time.

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Luke 24:49

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

John 1:12

This is an interesting verse. It does not say he made us sons of God which is the way it is preached. By saying he gave us power to become... it implies there are actions we must take to make this happen. We must pass tests, become obedient, hear his voice. This must be our desire and passion.

“No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself, I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again, This commandment have I received of my Father.”

John 10:18

Jesus was aware of what powers he had received to accomplish his mission and he knew how he was to use them.

“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”

John 17:2

Jesus has been given authority over all flesh to give us eternal life. He will do it. The question before each of us is: Will we receive it?

“Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”

John 19:10-11

All power comes from God. Here Jesus recognizes the power to govern comes from God. That power was not exercised in a righteous way.

“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 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 1:7-8

The disciples were not given the power to know times and seasons. That does not mean this power will be withheld forever. In Daniel 12 God tells us knowledge

will increase in the end times. But they and we to received the power to be witnesses when baptized with the Holy Ghost.

“And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? Or why look ye to earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?”

Acts 3:12

Natgural powr did not make the man walk. The powr to perform this miracle was given by God to bring glory to God.

“And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power or by what name, have ye done this?”

Acts 4:7

Others outside those who had been with Jesus recognized the power given on the day of Pentecost.

why such great power

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”

Acts 4:33

Such great power has been granted to us! Why such great power? Because we who are born again, and filled with the Holy Ghost God calls the sons of God (Romans 8:14)! This wasn't the case for believers prior to Christ's first coming. They were religious and to obey the teachings of Moses. But things changed radically with the arrival of Jesus Christ to earth for the first time.

“Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”

Acts 5:4

This verse highlights the passage about a well known lying incident. We learn here that God did not tolerate lying in the beginning days of his church. The church was too fragile and young in it's infancy. His church is supposedly all grown up now after 2,000 years. The word tells us he still has no tolerance for liars in our day. We see in Revelation that all liars end up in the Lake of Fire. Yet lying to get one's way is standard procedure for most politicians in our country today. It ought not be this way. This passage represents the importance of truth to God and those who represent Jesus should speak the truth.

“And Stephen, full of faith and power did great wonders and miracles among the people.”

Acts 6:8

Steven was full of the Holy Ghost. But later the religious Jews stoned him to death for standing up for Jesus. Our early American forefathers loved him, but it seems many are turning away now and that turning away could end up in religious hatred of Jesus. We see growing hatred toward Christians who won't compromise their faith. The worse kind of hatred coming upon the earth is the religious hatred that the religionists will display toward those who are filled with the Holy Ghost. It was no different in Steven's day. In the world it is all about control.

“To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.”

Acts 8:10

This story is interesting. Read the context of this verse. The man being talked about who had this great power was not a man of God. He was filled with sorceries to bewitch the people. Socery is on the rapid increase in our day. The Harry Potter series has bewitched the world, and much of the church. Beware of such displays of power. They are not of God. The gift of discernment is critical in our age.

“Saying, Give me also this power that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 8:19

This verse speaks of this man’s intent. He sought God’s power for his own purposes, but not God himself. Everyone wants power to succeed in their life. Beware of where this power comes from. Everyone you ally yourself with is going somewhere. Take the time to find out where that someone is going spiritually before joining him or you will end up going somewhere you shouldn’t be. Because you are emotionally drawn to someone does not mean establishing a close relationship is of God. Test the spirits!

demonic oppression

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

Acts 10:38

This is the clear example Jesus set for his disciples concerning spiritual warfare against demons, and we are to follow his example.

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Acts 26:18

Insight I received from this verse years back amazed me at the time, and changed how I viewed things spiritually. We all have favorite verses. This is certainly one of mine as far as providing insight was concerned. It says there is a power over people who are in darkness and unbelief that must be overcome before they can even hear to be saved. I have learned that no amount of reasoning or human effort can help someone who is lost to come into the light. It’s like they can’t even hear you when you speak truth. Supernatural help is needed for any change in

such a person's condition. Blindness is an Important indication of demonic oppression. The below verse indicates whose help we must rely on.

“And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: “

Romans 1:4

I love the Apostle Paul. He tells it like it is. Many don't like Paul. Certainly the weak minded don't like him. All those who want to put us back under the Old Covenant certainly don't like him. The whole book of Romans is great and chapter one starts off with a bang.

Look at the boldness of Paul in this next verse. I once gave a 50 minute talk at a Mayor's prayer breakfast in Oregon using this one verse as my primary verse. The Holy Spirit loves this below verse as the power really fell as I preached it. The entire city counsel of that town was there.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead: so that they are without excuse:”

Romans 1:20

No one has any excuse for rejecting God because it is so evident our universe has a creator.

“for I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, “

Romans 8:38

The beginning of the above verse concludes in verse 39 and says nothing can separate us from God who have joined ourselves to him. Praise God! If our confession is genuine we don't have to worry about falling short.

“For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that, my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”

Romans 9:17

The above verse is God repeating what he said in Exodus 9:16 through the mouth of Paul. God's power is manifested to glorify his name.

“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonor?”

Romans 9:21

This above verse puts the fear of God in me. I don't want to be one of those vessels of dishonor.

“What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.”

Romans 9:22

I expect you like me have at times marveled at God's long suffering concerning some of those he is using to bring about judgment in this nation. All who are aware have noticed who the villains are that masquerade in public as our leaders. And yet God in his word (Jeremiah 9:27) says to pray for them and it will go well for us. He promises to judge those who seem to be getting away with murder in due season (Romans 12:19).

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. “

Romans 13:1-2

This verse clearly tells us everything is under his control so do good and praise God in all things.

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil, Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:”

Romans 13:3

Isn't it good that even bad rulers are not a terror to good works and that we are not to fear doing good works.

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, That ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

Romans 15:13

I like the thought that our God is a God of hope and that he can fill us with joy and peace causing us to be full of hope in the power of the Holy Ghost.

“Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ,”

Romans 15:19

Here we see that Paul accomplished his mission in spite of great difficulty and persecution through mighty signs and wonders by the power of God. And we can too.

“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,”

Romans 16:25

God has power to establish us. Whether or not he does depends upon us and the decisions we make.

Sixty one times more

I am anxious to get to the book of Revelation. So I list here the remaining verses with the word power in them, which I will skip over to go right to Revelation. I would have liked to amplify those verses that I would have highlight if I had the time, but to shorten this work I have resisted the temptation to do so.

I Corinthians: 1:18, 24; 2:4-5; 4:19-20; 5:4; 6:12, 14; 7:4,37; 9:4-6; 9:12, 18; 11:10; 15:24, 43

II Corinthians: 4:7; 6:7; 8:3; 10:10; 12:9; 13:4; 13:10

Ephesians 1:19, 21; 2:2; 3:7, 10,20; 6:10, 12

Philippians 3:10

Colossians 1:11, 13, 16; 2:10, 15

I Thessalonians 1:5

II Thessalonians 1:9, 11; 2:9; 3:9

I Timothy 6:16

II Timothy 1:7-8; 3:5

Titus 3:1

Hebrews 1:3; 2:14; 4:12; 6:5; 7:16

I Peter 1:5; 3:22

II Peter 1:3, 16; 2:11

Jude 1:25

If I take you through the above 61 verses I am afraid I would lose many readers before getting to the book of Revelation which I really want you to read. There is more to learn by going through these verses for sure. But for the sake of time I am sparing you.

9

a very powerful Revelation

Nowhere in the Bible is the word power used more than in Revelation! Expect God to give you a spectacular word picture as he did John when you read this last book. God planned out in careful detail how he will bring things to a dramatic end. It will surprise and overwhelm his enemies. Those who hate him are madmen. So they are blind to what is coming. We who are not in darkness are to know and be prepared for what God has planned that will bring in his everlasting reign.

This chapter highlights the final showdown between good and evil. The apocalypse brings Jesus Christ back to earth in glory, power and majesty. He puts an end to the misery and suffering brought on by mankind's sin and rebellion.

faithful till the end

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Revelations 2:26

I find it hard to keep in my mind that this life is finite in the light of the rest of eternity. No matter how hard it gets it is critical to keep Jesus Christ front and center in our lives. That is tough with all the distractions. But as my wife is fond of saying: “It’s not as hard as hell!” Those who do overcome see in the verse above a glimpse of what is in our future; power over the nations.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Revelation 4:11

There is so much reason in just this one verse to worship our God.

“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessings, and honour, and glory, and power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.”

Revelation 5:12-13

Those in heaven have a perspective laid out in the above verse that none of the world leaders running things have apparently heard. Such a perspective is rare on planet earth among national leaders. Jesus, who in very nature is God, gave up his power through which he created the universe. The father gives it back to him because he is worthy to exercise it. God gives power to some of us, but not all are worthy like ungodly world leaders.

four supernatural horsemen begin their ride

“And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth.”

Revelation 6:4

World leaders cry for peace and safety but what we see are wars and rumors of war.

“And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.”

Revelation 6:8

These are just two of the four horses and riders in the apocalypse that bring in the destruction of the last days.

“Saying, Amen: Blessings, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 7:12

What a wonderful, holy declaration. Short and full of meaning for me! A declaration worth making one's own.

“And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.”

Revelation 9:3

This verse shows it will not be a good time to be on the earth. What are these things released into the earth? Men failed to submit to God's authority., They have no ability to avoid the power of these creatures.

“And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.”

Revelation 9:10

Right now is the time to believe in the soon coming rapture of true believers and get prepared spiritually. They loved to listen to these demons. Now they experience their true nature.

“For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.”

Revelation 9:19

unbelievers forced to decide

So many in unbelief! Bible studies like this one are not part of their lives. They need motivation to make a decision for or against Christ. To get off the fence! Seven years of tribulation provides that motivation.

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand and two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Revelation 11:3

Those in Israel and those who watch worldwide television will be without excuse as God releases these two powerful witnesses to testify of God.

“These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”

Revelation 11:6

With the demonstration of power following their warnings those who hear will be without excuse.

“Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come: because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”

Revelation 11:17

Those who say this are the twenty four elders in heaven who fall on their faces to worship our God. They represent the true believers who have gone on to glory. God had not exercised his great power previously to see we would come to him out of love.

the accuser cast down

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

Revelation 12:10

Because the prior verses describe angelic warfare this loud voice is probably an angel of God.

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power and his seat, and great authority.”

Revelation 13:2

For a short season God will allow Satan and his forces great power on earth to force people who are undecided and have been on the fence to make up their minds. The beast system which is described here is not to be trifled with. If we have already made the right decision, there is no need for us to go through the tribulation.

“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things, and blasphemies: and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.”

Revelation 13:4-5

This verse shows that more will choose unwisely than will choose to lose their life by standing with Christ to gain in eternity.

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”

Revelation 13:7

Many believers reject the rapture and want to stay behind to do great things for Christ and to be martyred. The above verse shows the power they will be up against.

“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

Revelation 13:12

We see several different beast systems on earth during these awful times.

“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

Revelation 13:14-15

We see how easily people will be deceived in these days with miracles being done in the name of the anti-christ. People are fascinated by technology. People have always been easily deceived. Can you believe that many think God is okay with murdering unborn babies?

“And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.”

Revelation 14:18

In a most powerful way this speaks of the coming judgment.

“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power: and no man was able to enter into the temple. And men were scorched with great

heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.”

Revelation 15:8

This shows the hardness of heart of most people in these last days.

“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.”

Revelation 16:8-9

This is another indication of the terrible judgment that is to come.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast”

Revelation 17:12-13

This speaks of the ten regions of the world which are being set up by the one world government. It also speaks of the mind control that will be in operation at this time. There is a persistent rumor of a mind control weapon that makes people believe they are hearing the voice of God. People believe what they want to believe. We inherited this affliction from our ancestors. The first sin ever recorded was to believe a lie.

the fall of Babylon

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power: and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Revelation 18:1

Chapter 18 is about the fall of mystery Babylon. Many think it describes the United States of America. I would think at the very least it describes strongholds of the enemies of God in America such as Los Angeles and New York to name two cities with immense power in these last days.

This entire chapter is about a great world power that has vast wealth, riches and power who is the envy of the world. Its destruction comes in one hour. There is great speculation about who this world power is. Is it a mighty city, nation or empire? Or could it be all of these things! Many believe it is so.

the second coming

“And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Revelation 19:1

Chapter 19 is wonderful! It fully describes the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in power and great glory.

reigning in power and glory a 1,000 years

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:6

When we live in the presence of Jesus, we will no longer be susceptible to deception. Jesus is the truth. As we know him we always know truth.

10

power to stand

I have truly surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. I want to bring him honor. No one I know personally who boldly confesses Christ as his savior and Lord deliberately wakes up everyday planning to fall short in following Christ's example. But at the end of the day many of us have fallen short. Why do we so often fail?

The answer from my biblical studies is simple. There are forces arrayed against us in the unseen world. Certainly my own flesh is my enemy. Also the world around me according to scripture can be an unfriendly one because of Satan's influence.

I can get into a routine of thinking like most civilians who don't follow Christ. Then when things heat up around me, instead of responding as a soldier of Christ, I respond inappropriately like an untrained civilian in a combat environment. My faith in Christ is over whelmed by the distractions occurring around me and I lose my faith focus, if I am not careful.

After the blinders fell off my eyes in 1978, and I discerned the spiritual realm for the very first time in an open eyed vision I was able to see and hear not just naturally but also spiritually. I experienced a whole different world really for the first time. I was struck with a glaring fact that had never really entered my mind before. The Bible and its truths became wonderfully real to me in a entirely new way.

unseen forces

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Ephesians 6:12

There are a lot of other scriptures that tell us what we are up against and how to fight. We need this information. It is not available in most pulpits in the typical Sunday sermon. Many pastors are not great students of the Bible. I don't recall ever hearing a sermon on spiritual warfare from the pulpit. Many of our teachers don't really seem to me to know how to stand tall in this world spiritually. But a disciple has no such excuse for he is called to be a student of the Bible.

A passage that is full of wisdom and knowledge concerning the warfare we are engaged in is this one:

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

Ephesians 6:11-18

This passage provides us with a lot of know how. Our supernatural enemies have only a few weapons they can use against us: unbelief, fear, doubt, and ignorance of the written word come to mind. We need to know for sure in spite of what we

see and hear who is on our side in the battle. God and his angels! We should be able to rest in peace and great joy always in spite of all circumstances.

This is my favorite , most comforting psalm in trying times:

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor the destruction that wasteth at noon day. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.”

Psalm 91

Though the word power is not to be found in this above Psalm it is all about the powerful protection to be found in Christ.

I say with confidence

Having had three combat tours with infantry Marines, and having lived a long life (75 years to date); I can say confidently this promise is true for those who ve him.

I have been taught and gotten a lot of practice fighting in the natural realm. Twenty seven months of experience in Vietnam as an infantry officer leading Marines! Also years of military training over twenty five years.

But I learned the truth of this next passage on my own.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

II Corinthians 10:4-5

I have outlived many I considered wiser, smarter, stronger and more talented. I now see I probably had one major advantage over those I am remembering: I never heard any of them confess Christ publicly as their Lord! They appeared to be in hindsight wholly natural men of prominence.

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”

I Corinthians 3:19

Over my long life I have personally discovered that:

“in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”

Romans 8:37

I have never considered myself to be stronger physically or smarter than most. I did better than average in high school and through college. But there were many who achieved more than I did. In my forties though respected in my profession I see now I relied more on my natural talents and logic until I came to the end of myself. One major setback set me back on my heels. It made me finally realize I was leaning more on myself than on God. It was a warning for me that I was going to crash big time if I didn't change my ways. I finally reached out to him in an earnest way. He responded wonderfully! This next verse became true in my life. It happened while I was on an unaccompanied tour with a Marine Regiment on

Okinawa in 1978. What a mighty gift we have in Jesus Christ and his amazing Spirit.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 2:38

I leaned into this wonderful verse that night, and was marvelously baptized in the Holy Ghost with fire.

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”

Daniel 11:32

Who will corrupt the wicked by flatteries? The coming anti-christ will! Who will do exploits? Because the anti-Christ only becomes fully known worldwide after the rapture, this is probably speaking mainly of the two witnesses and the 144,000 who will be strong and do exploits. But before the rapture we are strong in the Holy Ghost. And so we too should be doing exploits. Many believe the AC is on the scene now, but not indwelt until after the rapture. Some think they know his identity. This next passage also came alive in my life.

“For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.”

II Corinthians 13:4

This verse reminds me of a book I once read by Watchman Lee. I believe it was titled: Sit, Stand, Walk. The title seemed to describe the stages of growth in my own faith. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. So we should expect to finish strong (Philippians 1:6). When I was young my faith was foolishly placed in many people and things in my folly. I was mostly sitting as far as my activity in Christ was concerned. Later I learned to stand up in my faith and lean more on

the Spirit of God. Now I am older and wiser. I have made mistakes that I can't undo. I see that there is only one true object of our faith. It must be placed in Jesus Christ. Knowing this I have done some walking out of my faith (trips to Mexico, etc.).

I see more clearly the wisdom of Paul's exhortation:

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God."

I Corinthians 2:4-5

In these troubling days we see a lot of wickedness in high places. It clouds the truth of the next three verses making them difficult to understand and appreciate:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers for there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou not then be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shall have praise of the same."

Romans 13:1-3

We see in the book of Daniel that if anyone had an excuse to fight against the establishment Paul did. And yet that establishment, because Daniel looked to and depended on his God, he honored him in spite of those who wanted to do him in who had the ear of the king.

Paul asks an interesting question in light of what goes on in our day.

"What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much long suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: and that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared for his glory."

Romans 9:22

If God and servants like Daniel have endured such long suffering than who are we to complain of our suffering?

“Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, thou couldest have no power at all against me except it were given thee from above: Therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”

John 19:10-11

Though Jesus Christ certainly had the power to resist his captors, he did not take up the sword at that time, but looked to his Heavenly Father. But there is a time coming when he will take up the sword of his wrath.

our enemies will not prosper

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper: and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn.”

Isaiah 54:17

We can be confident in all our trials that our heavenly general is with us in whatever battles we are going through. This is true if we are in his will, hearing his voice and obeying his commands.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

If you don't feel that you have even one person to stand with you in a trial you are going through, know this:

“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in

one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

John 17:21-22

Finally be confident of this one thing:

“Being confident of this very thing. That he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it, until the day of Jesus Christ:”

Philippians 1:6

faith to stand

We all have heard the story in Daniel chapter three of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and their outstanding display of faith.

“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King. But, if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Daniel 3:17-18

There is not one of us who wants to be in such a place where our faith is tested in such an extreme manner. But if it happens we all want to prove worthy.

We all want that kind of faith.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Romans 10:17

Study hard as unto the LORD. Seek a closer relationship with Christ. He is the one who will assure we can stand in power in these last days.

11

one final look

Remember those 61 verses? The ones I intentionally skipped over? In fourteen books written by God through faithful men! My reason? I was anxious to get to the Book of Revelation!

Did my rash act leave you wondering? Had I skipped over anything valuable? Did you trust this decision? Did it make you anxious or did you not question my judgment? It happens a lot I suspect in churches: skipping over passages leaving gaps in education. Let's see what we might have overlooked.

I Corinthians

There are nineteen verses with the word power in them in this one book. Also chapters 12, 13 and 14 in my view are also about God's divine power. Yet, paradoxically you won't find the word power in these three important chapters. One chapter, thirteen, is about the power of love (charity).

Let us look at the first verse using this word:

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

I Corinthians 1:18

Until one is saved and his spiritual eyes and ears are opened such a person thinks the gospel is foolishness. This verse is very interesting to me. It tells me that the wisdom of God is very different from the wisdom of man. Before I was born again I felt I loved God. I attended church. But this verse confused me. Now that I am

empowered by the Holy Spirit, I understand the power of this verse and have seen how different God's wisdom is from man's.

The next verse is like a recipe:

"In the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 5:4

Our Father promises to answer godly prayers prayed in his son's Name. The Trinity is present where two or more believers are gathered together. All who are present are standing in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. When several saints get together to pray; and are in unity, there is real power present to change things.

For brevity's sake I won't explore other verses in Corinthians. But all the written word of God is profitable according to (II Timothy 3:16). So any verse I might be skipping over might be the very verse you need to hear right now.

II Corinthians

I count seven power verses in this book.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

II Corinthians 4:7

Most of us don't know the word very well. We haven't applied ourselves as students. So when we feel weak we don't feel like we have any power in us. The word says otherwise. The power in us who have surrendered our lives to Christ when we are feeling faint is excellent. It is the application of the will that is important, not so much our natural strength.

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

II Corinthians 12:9

This verse is an amplification of the prior verse. What a promise for those of us who are not in the eyes of the world mighty men. This next verse adds understanding to the prior two concerning God’s power in us. All this is foolishness to the worldly wise.

“For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.”

II Corinthians 13:4

These are a sampling of verses from the first two books passed by earlier. There is more to understand about power from the other verses. It is natural to skip over words when reading because most of us are in a hurry having too many things to do on our list. This is not always good though brevity is better than long windedness for sure. There is much to be learned by studying from verse to verse through the Bible. The next book is one I have heard much preaching from.

Ephesians

“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us—ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,”

Ephesians 1:19

I have heard pastors use this verse and the passage that follows. Many who are born again understand the importance of personal faith. God honors our faith. If there is no faith behind our prayers don’t expect God to respond.

Of the seven verses in this book this next one gives keen insight into the power of the dark side. That power in the unsaved that keeps most from ever coming to Christ. Satan will give them whatever it takes to if it will keep them in the

kingdom of darkness. The power to deceive is illustrated at the very beginning in the Garden of Eden.

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:2

The next verse tells me that God loves surprising those who please him. What pleases our Father is to be “born again” and cooperating with the Holy Ghost within us so he can bless us unexpectedly.

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

Ephesians 3:20

Many of us have heard pastors teach out of this chapter about putting on the armour of God. But is this a daily habit for most Christians? I think not.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

Ephesians 6:10

The eight verses that follow the above verse teach us how to accomplish this feat. But as with soldiers in any army, drill is the key. The army that drills its soldiers the most will most likely prevail in a fight.

Philippians

There is only one verse in this book. It is a most important verse in understanding the appropriation of divine power (Matthew 7:23). This is where I often miss it. So do many others.

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death:”

Philippians 3:10

We must know him. This implies his knowing us too. There are many who confess Christ. But Jesus himself will say he did not know them. This means they will miss the rapture and go into the tribulation that follows. These include many church members doing things in his name. Scary! Be sure he knows you....

Colossians

This book has five verses. Skipping over the first verse, look at the next one.

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”

Colossians 1:13

Have you ever meditated on the fact that we who are born again have been translated out from under the power of darkness? Darkness has a power! That is a scary truth! We are beyond Satan’s reach after translation! We are no longer in his kingdom. We no longer belong to him, but are now God’s. But we must choose to reside in the kingdom of light. We must learn to resist being drawn back into darkness. He will try to get to you through his demons and fallen angels. Don’t look back. Remember Lot’s wife! What was her fatal sin? Looking back! (Luke 17:32)

“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”

Colossians 2:10

We are complete in him. But we must choose daily to stay in him. How long would our body live without its head? Not long! We are vulnerable outside Christ, the head of the body. We are part of his body. Look to him in everything.

How secure are we “in Christ?”

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Colossians 2:15

I Thessalonians

This is the first book Paul wrote. It is very important (I Thes 5:27). But its importance is overlooked by many pastors. Satan tries hard to obscure what is written in this book. It was required reading in the early church. Paul wrote a second book to clear up misconceptions caused from the spread of lies by the enemies of the gospel. In our day scoffers and mockers try to keep believers from understanding some critical truths in this important book.

Many of us who grew up in the church have heard a lot of words preached. To be truthful most of them I couldn't remember after walking out the door after service. This verse talks about a power that rivets us to certain preaching.

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”

I Thessalonians 15

Oh for the type of preaching that convicts unto salvation. It is no longer common in American churches in the light of the increasing darkness in our culture.

II Thessalonians

There are four verses in this book. It's hard to skip over verses like this one.

“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

II Thessalonians 1:9-10

The second verse shows that the glory of his power will be in us who believe when he comes. How terrible to be punished with everlasting destruction by rejecting the gospel message. Verse 2:9 mentions one who is coming with all

power to deceive. The anti-christ! What a terrible day that will be for the world that misses out on the rapture through unbelief.

I Timothy

The only verse in this book with the word power in it is describing our LORD.

“Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting, Amen.”

I Timothy 6:16

II Timothy

I have heard this verse used by pastors in sermons. It is a wonderful truth.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

II Timothy 1:7

What does it mean to be given a spirit of power? We have been given a great gift, the Holy Spirit who comes with his power. Oh, To see such truth undergird the faith of the average American Christian! We would see this nation turned around in short order. But not enough pastors and teachers teach this truth. And fewer still teach the importance of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This truly is our source of boldness and faith. This next verse explains where most today seem to be coming from.

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

II Timothy 3:5

Titus

Paul here speaks of the Christian life. He exhorts those present in this letter.

“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”

Titus 3:1

Hebrews

There are five verses in this book. I hate to skip even one of them. This first verse speaks of the Father and the Son who reflects his glory.

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

Hebrews 1:3

There are so many places in the Bible where God’s majesty and power are described. This is one such place. There is much insight in this next verse. It too was hard to leave out.

“For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil:”

Hebrews 2:14

By experiencing death himself Jesus broke the devil’s power of death and will soon destroy the devil who has been such a scourge on the earth. If we ever needed motivation to read and study the word of God this next verse is it.

“For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Hebrew 4:12

This explains how we fight our spiritual enemies. This is our primary spiritual weapon to defend our lives and families against the attacks of the devil and his

followers. This verse is talking specifically about discerning truth. This is how we defeat Satan's tactic of deception.

The next verse is in Hebrews 6:5 where it is talking about believers who have fallen away. The entire passage should be read. It is a warning with a terrible truth. The final verse is 7:16 and talks about our eternal priest in the Heavens who stands in the power of an endless life.

I Peter

I love these next two epistles. There is so much truth to be found in the epistles. And Peter was so human. Was there ever such a man?

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

I Peter 1:5

Those who have faith will be revealed. The bottom line concerning power is found in this verse. We are kept through faith unto salvation. The difference between us who believe and those who don't is soon to be revealed in spectacular fashion according to this verse.

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him."

I Peter 3:22

This is telling us that all power is subject to him. We who believe have the authority to pray in his mighty name.

II Peter

This is the next to the last of the books we skipped over. We are close to the end of this study.

"According to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue:"

Each of these verses has enough wisdom in them to be the source verse for a great sermon.

“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye witnesses of his majesty.”

II Peter 1:16

It is not folly to devote ourselves to the study of the Word of God.

“Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.”

II Peter 2:11

Don't underestimate the cunningness of darkness.

Jude

We find one verse in Jude, verse 25.

“To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever. Amen.”

Jude 1:25

In closing, I have personally seen that this word is critical to our understanding of our God, and why there are no other gods before him. People look for power in many places. But there is only one source of all wisdom, understanding, and power. It is Jesus Christ. He is our only hope of glory.

For years though a confessing believer, I thought a college degree, then a master's degree, then one self help book after another was where I would find the keys to unlock further success and power in my profession and sway with people to fill the emptiness we all feel. I was in church every Sunday, but that didn't do it.

Until I completely surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, and turned fully to his written word in the scriptures in mid-life, I was effectively blind to what I was really looking for: that peace that passes all understanding. I hope this book has helped those who spent the time to finish it. We all have blind spots in our walks through life. This study certainly helped expose some of mine.

Author's Afterthoughts

It's inevitable after finishing such a study that one would have after thoughts. As a retired military officer I think of the eleven principles of warfare that most armies of the world agree are critical to success in combat. One principle that quickly comes to mind is the Principle of Mass. The word mass implies bringing a concentration of power to bear against a perceived weakness of the enemy to gain an advantage.

What do we perceive as the principle weakness of America and the church in these last days? To me the weakness from a military point of view is very apparent: division in the ranks. What did Jesus Christ say about division? A house divided cannot stand! Our enemies, the chief one being, Satan, know that neither the church nor America can be conquered by forces outside our nation. It has to be taken down from within. We see this happening as division seemingly takes on a life of its own and spreads throughout our nation. It must have been planned. This divisiveness reaches right into the highest offices across the nation.

It seems like no one can agree with anyone else on practically anything these days. Historically it is obvious that there has never been such a massive amount of power concentrated in one nation as in ours from the top down. Those who are observant see we are crumbling from within. How can this be in a nation with such access to power?

This study has mainly been about the power that God has given his church to prevail in these evil times. Yet we see pastors quitting because of burnout, established churches closing their doors, long held doctrines concerning matters such as abortion and sodomy being overturned by congregations more concerned with harmony than the truth of God's written word.

What is going on inside the church? I have been hard on pastors in my comments. As a Marine officer for many years I have been taught that leaders are responsible for everything good and bad in their organization. That leaders can't pass the blame to someone else. If one aspires to be a pastor, he must understand this is a great responsibility. When things go wrong the leaders must be held responsible. A.W. Tozer said something significant in this regard: *"Error never looks so innocent as when it is found in the sanctuary."* As the Christian church in America goes, so goes America.

Jesus Christ made this powerful statement in **Matthew 16:18**:

"And I say unto thee, That Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This is a promise. Yet we see division inside the church over who this rock is. Was the rock spoken of Peter or Jesus? This church or that church! One thing is clear! It is a promise from my leader that one like myself can get a hold of to stand in tough times when the enemy is at the gate. Standing on the Rock means something to the enemy and it should also mean something to us.

We see in **Revelation 13:7** something which seems contrary to what Jesus said while on this earth.

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”

How do we interpret this verse? Certainly we can understand from the clear language of the text that saints are overcome at a future time in history.

Looking at the word “elect” we see it used 21 times starting with the book of Isaiah and then into the New Testament. But we don’t find it used in Revelation. On the other hand the word “saints” is used 100 times starting in Deuteronomy and continuing right into the final book of Revelation where we find it used thirteen times in this final book. I haven’t studied these two words out, but suspect that it gives us some clues as to the apparent conflict between the power of the church to prevail talked about in Matthew 15:18 and the absence of such power in Revelation 13:7.

One thing is for sure! We must have a very clear understanding of divine power and how to appropriate it in these last days no matter ones understanding of prophecy, the rapture and tribulation. It seems to me that we are at the end of one dispensation and the beginning of another. How power is appropriated and applied could soon change quite drastically. So we need to be alert and prepared so as not to be overcome.

