

POWER FOR YOU AND ME

John A. Gibson

When we are offered something we need, we usually take it. It may not be free but if we need it and it's worth it, we usually pay the price and take it.

We need "power." No, not the kind that our car's engine provides, but the spiritual kind that gives us what we need to serve God. There are times I need to speak to others about salvation from sin or the need to repent of a wrong. I need power to endure various persecutions or to remain steadfast in faithfulness to God. We all need power to faithfully assemble with the saints or to encourage other Christians to hold on to their hope of heaven. We need special power in these situations.

Where does this power come from? Listen to the apostle Paul in Ephesians 3:16-20. *"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with **power** through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the **power** that works within us."* This power comes from God through His Spirit. God wants this power to work in us.

Ok, what is this power? This power is the influence of God's grace and love revealed to us in His word. This is what we need in our hearts. Listen to Galatians 4:6. *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba! Father!'"* The "Spirit of His Son" is the Holy Spirit who has given the inspired word to the apostles to speak and write. When we read the message of the Spirit of God and place it in our hearts, we have power to stand strong and serve God. Do you see what God does for us? He is giving us His power – His word, the gospel to deal with the world and Satan's temptations.

As I write this, the Superbowl is approaching. I am reminded how a football coach gathers his players around him and speaks powerful words of encouragement to charge up his team. If they pay attention, they will be built up and charged up with a special "power" to play successfully.

That is what God does for us with His word. As we read it and place it upon our hearts, we are given power to deal with life's difficulties and challenges as well as helping others to see God's blessings in Christ. We need to read and consume God's word to be ready for whatever comes.

This power is for us. The question is, shall we take it and use it for God's glory or refuse it for no results? Its effect on us is determined by the extent in which we allow the Spirit to work in us. That's God power for each of us! Philippians 2:13 says, *"It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."* Are you ready for this power? Are you using this power? God is ready and willing to work in each of us for His good pleasure. It's our choice. Fill your heart with God's word.
