

Melva's Corner

POWER PLUS

November 13, 2006

(Colossians 1:9-11)

Central Truth: Directed by Holy Spirit power we can speak boldly, bring encouragement, judge fairly and wisely, omit gossip, offer prayer for others, love others as ourselves, and actively display and use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given us.

Most of the time we associate the word "power" with authority, great and noble deeds in military battles, influence in governing people, knowledge in making scientific and medical discoveries, leadership in being the CEO of a big corporation, etc.

As Christians, we also associate "power" with the visible display of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and how those present that day eventually changed a world that continues to change because of their influence.

We usually think of power in big letters — "POWER" — but there is also a display of "power" in other ways. God did not express His pleasure in His Son at His baptism with a bolt of thunder and lightening, but with the flutter of wings of a dove that came to rest upon Him.

But what about power for those of you who face the challenges of daily life or aging? Can you no longer go out and change the world for the Kingdom? Do you think that Holy Spirit "POWER" does not apply to you? Can you still be empowered to do the work of the Kingdom in important ways?

One very powerful way is to be an example to others of what "Christ in you" means. (Colossians 1:27) Directed by Holy Spirit power we can speak boldly, bring encouragement, deal fairly and wisely, refrain from gossip, offer prayer for others, love others as ourselves, and actively display and use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given us.

Let's be honest — we all change physically as the years pass.

However, the more important consideration is how we are changing spiritually. As Paul wrote to Christians in Ephesus, he talked about putting off the old person with its sinful actions and attitudes, and putting on the new person, re-created with Christ-like qualities (Ephesians 4:17-32NRS). This is not a once-in-a-lifetime activity. No, transformation to be like Christ is an ongoing process.

In God's eyes, we change immediately from the "old man" (as the Bible would say) to the "new man." We are a new creation! (II Corinthians 5:17) However, becoming like Jesus is not something that's done overnight; it's a process that we live by taking one-step at a time.

And we can do that, can't we? We can take another step past the first, and then another one, and another . . . And these little steps may not seem like much at the time, but when you look back you see progress — big progress! The apostle Paul called it transformation. And we're not alone in having it happen in our lives: the Holy Spirit is at work to help us in this gradual, but transformational change.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. (II Corinthians 3:17-18 NRS)

God doesn't expect you to run the mile in four minutes, but He promises to give you the strength to keep going the distance until you finish the course and receive your reward because you have kept the faith. That's good news!

If we are going to grow, we must change.

Acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is working in this way may take away the frustration of those who feel trapped by their circumstances. Circumstances are really the times that God can use to empower us. The Holy Spirit is the means by which we accomplish it. Don't forget to trust in God's wonder working power

found in the Holy Spirit no matter your life circumstances! Now that's real power!

Scriptural References:

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy. (Colossians 1:9-11 NKJV)