

Date: May 12, 2019
Series: The Holy Spirit

THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD

(Selected Scriptures)

Many years ago, when a hurricane hit South Florida, Norena Smith's¹ home was one of many that was severely damaged. The elderly woman received an insurance settlement, and the repair work began. However, when the money ran out, so did the contractor, leaving an unfinished home with no electricity—and she has been living without power ever since.

Norena has been living in that dark, unfinished house for 15 years. No heat when the winter chill settled over South Florida. No air conditioning when the mercury climbed into the 90's and the humidity clung to 100 percent. Not one hot shower.

Without money to finish the repairs, Norena just got by with a small lamp and a single burner. Her neighbors didn't seem to notice the absence of power. Acting on a tip, the mayor of Miami-Dade got involved. It only took a few hours of work by electrical contractor Kent Crook to return power to the house.

CBS News says Norena plans to let the water get really hot, and then take her first bubble bath in a decade and a half. "It's hard to describe having [the electricity]...to switch on," she said. "It's overwhelming."

(Comments on the thought of living without electrical power for 15 hours let alone 15 years)

The fix that Norena Smith needed was not that complicated. It only took a few hours to get the power she had needed for so many years. And the good news this morning is this, if you have lost power in your spiritual house, it is not as difficult as you may think to get the power turned back on.

This morning, I would like to renew your strength by speaking on the topic of the "The Power of the Spirit of God." The night before Jesus was crucified, He told His disciples that He would not leave them behind as orphans—helpless, vulnerable, or defenseless. Jesus told them He would send them the Spirit who would be their power source for every single situation that life could throw at them. The Spirit would be there for them in both the good times and the bad.

The Power of the Spirit of God!

(Prayer)

I love thunderstorms and lightning. Now, I might change my mind about that if my house was ever hit by lightning, but for right now, when I see an amazing display of God's power in the sky and feel my house shake from the after-effects of lightning hits that occurred miles away, it doesn't really frighten me. It actually reminds me of how powerful God is. Job 37:2 says:

Job 37:2-5 (NLT)-----² Listen carefully to the thunder of God's voice as it rolls from his mouth. ³ It rolls across the heavens, and his lightning flashes in every direction. ⁴ Then comes the roaring

¹ Last name added for effect

of the thunder— the tremendous voice of his majesty. He does not restrain it when he speaks. ⁵ God's voice is glorious in the thunder. We can't even imagine the greatness of his power.

1. **Power is an attribute of God**

Romans 1:20-----²⁰ For since the creation of the world His [God's] invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...

All that God has made bears witness to His incredible power, and, as a result His "Godhead" that is, His deity—the fact that He is God. Only a fool would believe that the universe could have developed apart from a powerful Agent of creation. And that is why Paul says that mankind is without excuse. God's power is seen in and by His creation.

Jeremiah 10:12-----¹² He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

2. **Power is an attribute of Jesus**

In 1 Cor 5, Paul spoke of:

1 Corinthians 5:4----- ...the power of our Lord Jesus Christ...

And after spending nearly four years with Jesus, Peter wrote:

2 Peter 1:16-----...we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, [and] were eyewitnesses of His majesty...

Only Peter, James, and John were there to see the power and glory of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, but one day, all mankind will see the power of Christ in person at His return to earth:

Mark 13:26-----²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

3. **Power is an attribute of the Holy Spirit**

In the Old Testament, 31X we see the phrase "the Spirit of God" (or "the Spirit of the Lord") "came upon him" (or "came mightily upon him" in the case of Samson). The *Faithlife Study Bible* says this:

"In the OT, this phrase is used to describe people who are enabled to perform divinely appointed tasks."

In other words, sharing prophecies given to them by God, leading God's people into war against God's enemies, etc. Old Testament saints needed special power from God in order to do certain tasks God asked them to do. The New Testament also speaks of the power of the Spirit.

As a human, Jesus possessed this power. After 40 days of temptation by Satan, Luke wrote:

Luke 4:14-----¹⁴ Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

And after His resurrection, Jesus promised the Spirit's power to His followers as those who would share Christ with the entire world:

Acts 1:8-----⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

It is by the power of the Spirit that you and I as believers can (and should!) be full of hope about the future:

Romans 15:13-----¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When a believer is overwhelmed by depression, it is an indicator that: (1) He or she is on some bad meds, or, (2) He or she is not trusting God (the verse says: "in believing").

Ok. So we have laid the groundwork and have seen that both the creation and Scripture attest to the fact that our God is a God of awesome and limitless power.

This leads us naturally to a final question:

What about the power of the Spirit in our daily lives?

Well, first, we saw that He enables us...

1. To witness (Pic of Peter Van Kleeck)

We already looked at Acts 1:8, but let's look at Rom 15:19. Paul said:

Romans 15:19-----...in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God ... I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

I love the words of Jesus in Luke 24. After His resurrection, Jesus told His followers:

Luke 24:49-----“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father [= the Holy Spirit] upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

You will never witness until you realize that the powerful Spirit of God is with you every step of the way. We share the **Word**, the Spirit does the **work**!

2. To help others

Acts 10:38-----...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

If we are like Jesus, we will live to better the lives of others. We don't heal people oppressed of the devil *literally* (by casting out demons), but we do this whenever we are a blessing and encouragement to people, freeing them from the chains of sin that Satan binds them with.

Colossians 1:29-----

²⁹ To this end [goal] I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Are you day in and day out looking for ways to be a blessing to others?

3. To be holy

First, in a personal sense.

I've already taught you on this earlier in the series, by let me review quickly.

Any believer who is not connected with God (through His word) and resists the Spirit of God (who desires to mold him into Christ's likeness) will fail spiritually. Without the word of God and the Spirit of God, holiness is impossible. Romans (which says so much about spiritual victory through the Spirit), says that Jesus is...

Romans 1:4----- ...declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Zane Hodges wrote:

“The Holy Spirit ... is the divine Agent, both in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and also in the “spiritual resurrection” which *enables* the Christian life.”

It is the Spirit who enables us to become holy in a **personal** sense, but He also enables us to become holy in a **corporate** sense (as a church family). Notice Eph 3. Paul prayed that God the Father would grant the Ephesian church as a body of believers:

Ephesians 3:16–19----- ..., **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man**,¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your [y'all's] hearts through faith; that you [y'all] ...¹⁹ may be filled with all the fulness of God...

God wants us to be one---to be unified. He wants us to be holy as individuals and as a group. When believers don't get along and love one another, the church will not be able to do what God wants it to do.

Closing Story

On July 15, 1986, Roger Clemens, the sizzling right-hander for the Boston Red Sox, started his first All-Star Game. In the second inning, he came to bat, something he hadn't done in years because of the American League's designated-hitter rule. He took a few uncertain practice swings and then looked out at his forbidding opponent, **Dwight Gooden**, who the previous year had won the Cy Young award. Gooden wound up and threw a white-hot fastball past Clemens.

With an embarrassed smile on his face, Clemens stepped out of the box and asked the catcher, Gary Carter: **"Is that what my** pitches look like?" And Carter replied: **"You bet it is!"** Although Clemens quickly struck out, he went on to pitch three perfect innings and was named **the game's most valuable player**.

With a fresh reminder of how overpowering a good fastball is, Clemens said he pitched from that day on with far greater boldness.

Closing Comments/Application