

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 07.12.10

"THERE IS POWER IN THE GOSPEL"

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

In the day that we live in most people go throughout their day using electrical power without even thinking much about it. Could you imagine living in a home where power is present, but never flipping a light switch on or plugging into a wall outlet to tap into that power. Imagine how different our lives would be based on how much of what we do every day is reliant upon the use of the power that we take for granted.

When it comes to the power of God most don't take that power for granted because for the most part we have not fully understood how to tap into that power. Electrical power has been available since the day the earth was created. It just took quite some time for man to figure out how to tap into and harness that power. God's power has always been in existence and yet we have not done as good in learning how to tap into what is present everywhere, the power of God. Time to learn more about how to flip the switch on!

One of the key factors that I believe scripture reveals through our foundation verse and others like it that is important to flipping this switch on is understanding what the "gospel of Christ" really means. As Paul states clearly here in Romans 1:16 the gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation. Don't let the word "salvation" make you think this is just talking about being born again. It means far more than just being born again. The word salvation is defined as: to rescue, safety physically and morally, to deliver, and to be in health. The work of "salvation" provides far more than just being forgiven of sin.

Through salvation we now have right standing with God, His righteousness. This means we now have a right to the life that God has said He provided for us. That includes safety, being rescued, delivered, and well. The truth that has been often missed is what Paul says this power is. The power lies within the gospel of Jesus Christ. Much has been spoken of about the gospel and what it is, some good and some not so good. Without taking time to look at what all may be implied by what many say the gospel is, let's look to the Word and let that be the defining factor. Until we fully understand what the gospel of Christ is we are going to have a hard time flipping the switch on.

Gal. 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, Gal. 1:7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Here we have a very straightforward understanding of what the "gospel of Christ" really is. The gospel is the "grace of Christ". This is where there has been misunderstanding and thus the lack of ability to tap into the power that lies within the gospel. Most define the gospel as "good news" as it is defined by Greek scholars. This is certainly true, because when you fully understand the grace of Christ you will truly see just how good this news really is. When you look to the definition of the word "gospel" you will find the following definition from Thayer's Greek - English Lexicon, "*the proclamation of the grace of God manifested and pledged in Christ; the gospel*". The more we can learn about the grace of God that was manifested, the more you can see this power released in your life.

John 1:17 For while the Law was given through Moses, grace (unearned, undeserved favor and spiritual blessing) and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Here we see a better picture of what grace is all about which is the good news that Christ brought to this earth. The Law which had all of it's requirements was given as a way that those before Christ could be accounted as righteous, those who were in right standing with God. But the way in which this right standing is established now is through faith in Jesus fulfilling the Law. God's unearned and undeserved favor with spiritual blessing came through Jesus Christ. Grace means we got what we did not deserve nor could we earn it. What is it? God's gift of righteousness. That is really what the "gospel of Christ" boils down to. The reason you are able to experience the power of God in your life is because of the righteousness He has given to us. Righteousness means "right standing with God".

God's power was seen working through Jesus because grace came through Him. How many believers truly understand what it means to have right standing with God? Sadly enough many do not. Those who have seen God's power working in their life have gained great insight into this position they have in God. Having God's gift of righteousness gives you the right to what God has paid the price for you to walk in. He paid the price through the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ. This understanding of our righteousness will also produce a life that is lived more in line with God. When you begin to see yourself right with God you take on a whole new picture of who you now are in Christ. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

Rom. 5:17 For if, because of the offense of one man, death ruled through that one man; how much more will those receiving the

overflowing grace, that is, the gift of being considered righteous, rule in life through the one man Yeshua the Messiah!

As a believer in Christ we will not walk in dominion over the powers of darkness if we are walking in the power of God's light? How do you take dominion over a dark room? You flip the switch and turn on the light. Doing so causes light to now take dominion over that room. The word for "rule" above means to exercise kingly power. That is taking dominion over something. How do we rule over the works of darkness? By understanding our position in Christ because of what He has done for us.

The difficulty for many in the body of Christ is in not fully understanding what is spoken of as the gift of righteousness. It is a gift that cannot be earned. For example if you were born to royalty and were through that royalty given certain rights that you did not earn but came about simply because of your birthright, but yet did not know of your rights or if you did not even know your rightful place through that birthright, you would not walk in that which was already yours. How can you exercise your rights in that which you are not aware belongs to you simply by birthright?

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Looking back to our foundation verse notice that Paul states that this power found in the gospel of Christ is to everyone who "believes". We must believe in all that Christ has done for us. We must believe that the price for our sin, our unrighteousness, and therefore what we have a right to through Christ is completely paid for. To see this power of God manifested which came through the gospel of Christ one must believe in the fulfillment of Christ's sacrifice. One of the great apostle's who walked in great power, Smith Wigglesworth, used to say, "Only believe". Sounds too simple. But honestly we often make it more complicated than it is.

Now if we do believe then we are going to have more than just something we know within. As Paul also stated here in Romans that he was not ashamed of the gospel. If you believe in this good news you are going to proclaim it no matter what you may see in the natural, and no matter who may be around to hear it. Faith won't work if it is not spoken. Faith believes, but faith also speaks, and therefore faith also has corresponding action. It's more than just making a confession, it is truly believing in what you are saying. Many simply try to make a confession but yet lack understanding of their right standing with God. Doing so won't take long before the enemy through natural circumstances convinces you otherwise.

Gal. 5:4 If you seek to be justified *and* declared righteous *and* to be given a right standing with God through the Law, you are brought to nothing *and* so separated (severed) from Christ. You have fallen away from grace (from God's gracious favor and unmerited blessing).

The moment we begin to base our right standing with God on anything other than what Christ has done for us, we have then fallen from grace. Grace is the message of the gospel of Christ which is the power of God. So when we have fallen from grace we have flipped the light switch off and have therefore shut down God's power. Falling from grace as many have taught is not what happens when someone sin's. Falling from grace clearly stated above is when we are not basing our right standing on what Christ has done. May God richly bless you to grow in your understanding of the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

See You Again Next Week For More
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MAY GOD'S VERY BEST BE YOURS!
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