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There is Power in the Blood

*Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.*

*Would you be free from your passion and
pride?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide;
There's wonderful power in the blood*

*Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Sin stains are lost in its lifegiving flow;
There's wonderful power in the blood.*

*Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful power in the blood.*

Refrain:

*There's power, power,
Wonder-working power
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is power, power,
Wonder-working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.*

WORDS: Lewis E. Jones (w. 1899)

MUSIC: Lewis E. Jones (w. 1899)



But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:7-10



Where is the Power?

We all have experienced it slipping in and out of our awareness - that thing that wakes us up in the night, perhaps at midnight or in those darkest hours before the sun rises. Or perhaps it haunts our anxiety dreams when we otherwise sleep soundly. Perhaps a word or observation will trigger it in our waking hours. I will just call it the Thing.

It is the Thing we dread the most. It is the Thing we know not to worry about because we can't control it, because it may never happen, and because if it does, it may not be as bad as we think anyway. It is the Thing we refuse to allow to ruin our joy and purpose in the present day, for "this is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice in it." It is the Thing we very likely will never experience. Until the day we do. Until the day the Thing happens.

Once the Thing happens, it may indeed not be as bad as one imagines. On the other hand, it may be worse, far worse. Either way, the reality of the Thing will be something one could never completely anticipate. Whatever the Thing is – illness, death, reversal of fortune, destruction of relationship, betrayal, danger – it requires a response. It requires specific actions to be taken.

Confronting the Thing, however, also requires mental and emotional strength, resilience, focus, peace of mind, all characteristics that cannot exist without a power source. We come face to face with the fact that we are weak and that we desperately need power. We can seek inside ourselves for that power – the world certainly tells us that is where it is. But seeking power within oneself is an exercise in futility. The solution is actually found in a paradox. The paradox is that we will only find the power we need in dependence as long as that dependence is centered on God.

Practically speaking, though, what does that dependence, and the power inherent in it, look like in a

person's life? What kind of choices do we make that live out that dependence? There's wisdom in the Bible, and it can tell us much about how dependence on God generates power. The Bible describes the toxic thinking to eliminate and the powerful thinking to encourage. Let's consider some scriptures that show us, basically, Do This, Don't Do This.

Connection v. Isolation: *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10*

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. II Corinthians 13:11

Anxiety v. Trust: *Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. ... Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:25, 26, 33, 34*

... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6,7

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ... For when I am weak, then I am strong. II Corinthians 12:9,10b

Victimhood v. Gratefulness: *... give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:18*

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ... as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. Philippians 1:12, 20

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has

been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5

... fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God: I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Complacency v. Intentionality: *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:2,3*

Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Luke 12:35,36

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith, ... Hebrews 12:1,2b

Don't ever let the Thing knock you off course. Find your Power – in Dependence.

Ina McKune, Rolla, Missouri

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THE POWER OF GOD

Man has made some amazing inventions with tremendous power, such as nuclear bombs that can destroy complete cities. The rocket ship took man to the moon. Man has made the computer and the internet where one has access to all types of knowledge and facts. These accomplishments are powerful, but they are nothing compared to the power of God.

God, using a flood, showed His power in judging the people because of their sin. But God also delivered Noah and his family from the destruction because of their righteousness. God delivered the children of Israel from the Egyptians using the plagues and the final power over life by the death of the firstborn of the Egyptians. But the firstborn of the children of Israel were safe because of the blood placed on their door frames. Then He showed His power over the sea by providing the Israelites an escape route through the Red Sea on dry land. When the Egyptians tried to follow, the sea crashed upon them destroying their army!! Who can go up against the Lord?

God has shown His power by delivering His people. King Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah and 280,000

from Benjamin with shields and bows. Zerah the Ethiopian came up against Asa with an army of one million with 300 chariots. Asa called to the Lord (II Chronicles 14:11); the Lord routed the Ethiopians and they fled. Think of the power of one angel that destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night (II Kings 19:35).

Think of the power of God to judge and send people into slavery because of their disobedience; and think of the Babylonian and Assyrian captivity. Think about the power of the weather in a tornado or a hurricane. The power of an earthquake can destroy a city and many lives.

Think of the power of God over death! God raised Jesus from the dead after a horrible death on a Roman cross. God's mercy can redeem us from our sins, and His power can raise us up to eternal life!

Loyd Waite (elder), Rolla, Missouri
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NOW AND LATER

I love to read accounts of how God displayed His power in the Bible. Nobody else could speak our whole universe into being in six days. None of us could have opened the fountains of the deep and the clouds of the sky in order to flood the whole earth at once. Who among us could have parted the Red Sea to allow a whole nation to pass through it? Which one of us could promise a woman well past childbearing age she would conceive and bear a son and be able to fulfil that promise? There are so many more examples in the Old Testament. I stand amazed.

In the New Testament, we see more examples done with more frequency. We see a blind man healed, a woman with an issue of blood, lame men and a group of lepers and many others, all healed completely and instantly. We read of a kind woman named Dorcas and Jesus' friend, Lazarus, raised from the dead. All these accounts are recorded in the Bible to confirm the deity and power of God and His son, Jesus. They are there to assure us that the promises made about heaven and our eternal salvation are real. God is able to fulfill those promises.

Unfortunately, we live in an age when people demand instant gratification. We expect to live life like the Now and Later candy! All those examples of God's past demonstrations of power and His promises of great rewards in the future fail to answer the question, "What about now?" Do you question what the advantages of obedience have for you in the here and now? I think it is human nature to do that at times. Fortunately, there

are real advantages to obedience in the here and now. Of course, the first is the reassurance that we will be able to spend eternity with God and the saints. That assurance gives us peace and hope as we go about our daily lives.

We see in the Old Testament that God instructed circumcision be done on the eighth day, but He did not tell them that is the day vitamin K is at its peak in the blood stream. Vitamin K is the one that aids blood clotting. When we read the cleanliness laws, we know the people did not know about bacteria and how it impacted their lives. Do you see God's power in that knowledge? God knew, and He provided instructions on hand washing, not touching dead bodies, etc. He did not explain all the reasons for the cleanliness laws, but His requirements protected the people from serious dangers. Can we not trust Him to do the same for us? Beyond that, when we treat our fellow man as we have been instructed, we do not have to deal with turmoil within our relationships. If we obey the laws of the land, we need not fear the authorities.

Look around you. People who use illegal drugs may seem "happy go lucky." At closer examination, they struggle to pay for their addiction to the point of having to steal. They ultimately live with constant fear of the law and fear of death. They know the risks, and yet, have no power to resist. It is a life of sheer agony. People who rob others are on constant alert fearing apprehension. Anxiety is their constant companion.

It is my contention that living life as God has outlined in scripture makes for the most peaceful existence possible. Even if we never obeyed the gospel, life here and now would be more peaceful and enjoyable. By obeying the gospel, we not only have that peaceful life here and now; we also have the assurance of life eternal with God and the saints.

God loves us, and He has given us instructions on how to have the absolute best life possible, both here and in eternity. Why would we refuse to utilize that? We truly can have Now and Later.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana
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Power or Dependence

Power hungry men and women have caused a lot of desolation in the world since the beginning of time. They cheat, lie, steal, and kill because they want what power and wealth can give them. Money and power are their gods. The One who is all-powerful is forgotten in the schemes of men. Nations have risen and fallen due to the whims of power-hungry people. Wealth is gained

at the expense of others. Greedy people never want to be dependent on anyone but themselves.

“Do not covet” (Exodus 20:17) is ignored or forgotten. Christians sometimes have the same problem. James says in James 4:2-3, *“You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”* (NIV). Every material blessing we have is simply on loan from the Father for a short time. “Things” can be lost in a matter of minutes. For most, being dependent has a negative sense. It reminds us of all the things we do not want to be—hungry, homeless, poor, and “on welfare.”

In Luke 18:18-30, the rich young ruler loved his wealth so much he could not give it up to follow Jesus. It was not wrong for him to be rich, but Jesus knew he had a heart problem. He did not own his riches. His riches owned him. So many today have the same problem. Their material things own them. The more we have, the bigger the problems in maintaining them. It costs a lot of time and money to own “things.”

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, *“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you.”* He is referring to our physical needs. God supplies ALL our needs, but our wants get in the way of trusting the Almighty completely. Where does my trust lie? Who or what am I dependent on? God or self? Totally trusting in God means I have to give up self. If I lost all my worldly goods, would I trust enough to say, “It wasn’t mine anyway,” and then trust Him to take care of me? He promised He would. Do I believe Him?

It is wonderful to know that no matter what may come, if I remain faithful, I can never lose my relationship with the Lord or my place in heaven. *“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord is my Rock eternal.”* Isaiah 26:4. In Romans 10:11, Paul says, “As the scripture says, anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.”

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri

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The Power of Encouragement

Paul in his last letter to Timothy was encouraging him to remember the power we are given by God, *“...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control,”* II Timothy 1:7. Christians have the power of love, self-control, prayer, faith and more. I think Timothy was encouraged by his friend's words. The definition of encouragement is the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope.

We, too, can be encouraging to our fellow Christians. Sometimes we all need to be reminded of God's love for us and the power He has given us. When someone is going through rough times, we can send a card of encouragement. Maybe a thank you card to that person who selflessly gives of their time for the church. Some people may only need the power of a smile or a hello. I try my best to always smile at the cashier or the other people in line while I am shopping.

In July of 2020, I was diagnosed with Bell’s Palsy. The right side of my face was paralyzed. I couldn't smile, chew correctly, or say some letters clearly. My granddaughter, Hadley, who was 6 at the time became my encourager. She would practice saying letters with me and always said, “Great try, Nana, you are doing so good.” It took several months for me to be able to say some letters clearly, but she was there giving me encouragement.

We can encourage the world by giving them the hope of eternal life with God. We can do this by teaching them the wonderful news that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead so that we can have a way to heaven. We can encourage by being the light that draws them to learn about the hope we have of eternal life with God. In a chaotic world, people are looking for the peace that passes understanding. *“...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”* I Peter 3:15

Finding someone to encourage is not hard. You can look around you and see people who are hurting, sad, or feeling lost in an uncaring world. I need to work on being a better encourager. Spending time helping others helps me not to focus on things that might be discouraging to me. So, let's all try to find at least one person to encourage every day. Soon we will realize the power of encouraging.

Debbie Broughton, St. Robert, Missouri

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