

## The Power of God and the Christian Pt.1

August 31, 2014 AM

*Our dependence upon the supernatural and our expectation of the miraculous has been dulled and even lost as we drift deeper into the sensory perception, lifestyle and culture of the world around us. We must have our faith in the power of God restored and revived.*

### 3 GUIDELINES FOR STUDY:

1. *Accept in faith the simplicity of the Scriptures. Don't make it hard, don't over-think it.*
2. *The wisdom of God far exceeds human intelligence. Don't require that the Scriptures be defined, explained or understood intellectually.*
3. *Don't add to or take from the Scriptures.*
  - a. *Let the Scriptures speak for themselves; don't study with a pre-determined agenda.*
  - b. *Focus on the obvious. Let the obscure be obscure.*
  - c. *Don't try to force Scripture into man-made doctrinal formulas.*
  - d. *Don't interpret Scripture in light of human error and abuses.*

### **Mark 16:14–20**

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and **upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.**

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

18 **They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 **And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

- ***There is only one thing standing between us and a miracle - our unbelief.***
  - ***The unbelief worse than "God can't" is the unbelief that says "God won't, not now and not for me."***
  - ***Faith is not a muscle, not a power, nor a feeling where the more force you can produce the better. Faith is a choice, in response to the Word of God, to believe God can, God will, for me here and now. If you make that choice, even it seems as small as a mustard seed, God will respond in power.***

**Matthew 17:14–20**

14 And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him,

15 said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.

16 And **I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.**”

17 And Jesus answered, “**O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.**”

18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “**Why could we not cast it out?**”

20 He said to them, “**Because of your little (limited, poor quality) faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.**”

- ***Our expectant anticipation for the manifestation of God’s power can be dimmed or even lost in the mundane, the familiar, the routine.***
  - ***The mundane and routine lulls us into a spiritual slumber that life will always be this way.***
  - ***Sophistication, education and arrogance teach us that God can only use the elite, not the common people.***

**Mark 6:1-6 (Matthew 13:57-58)**

1 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “**Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?**”

3 **Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?**” And **they took offense at him.**

4 And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.”

5 And **he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.**

6 And **he marveled because of their unbelief.**

**Joel 2:28–29**

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, That **I will pour (to dump, gush) out my spirit upon all flesh;** And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the **servants** and upon the **handmaids** **In those days will I pour out my spirit.**

- ***The power of God is not at our disposal to use how and when we decide. We cannot initiate or direct the move of God’s power.***

Mark 16:20

20 **And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

**Acts 8:14–22**

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard **that Samaria had received the word of God,** they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, **that they might receive the Holy Ghost:**

16 **(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)**

17 **Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, **Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.**

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 **Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.**

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

- ***The supernatural is not always spectacular to or discernable with the physical senses.***

**1 Kings 18:41–45**

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for **there is a sound of the rushing of rain.**"

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees.

43 And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, **"There is nothing."** And he said, **"Go again," seven times.**

44 And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, **a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea.**" And he said, **"Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'**"

45 **And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.**